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# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
# THE COMMON CAUSE
## OF HUMANITY.

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SNA X

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# Notes and Comments.

## A Week of Conferences.

Easter week has been one of hard work for reformers. Conferences of every kind—the Independent Labour Party, the National Union of Teachers, the Telephone Employees, the Shop Assistants' Union, and many others, have been discussing their affairs, and the delegates, we imagine, have found the holiday time anything but a holiday. The I.L.P. meeting was a specially interesting one, marking, as it did, the Party's "coming of age."

## The Position of the Labour Party.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, as our readers know, is Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party. It is, therefore, significant that at the Independent Labour Party's Conference he emphatically endorsed the strong expression of dissent from any possibility of an "alliance" between Liberalism and Labour. The feeling that a more independent line should be taken not only in the country but in the House of Commons was very strong, and was reflected in the enthusiastic support given to Mr. Jowett's resolution, of which a report will be found in another column.

## A "D.S.O." for the Independent Labour Party.

We publish elsewhere a report of the proceedings at Bradford, and desire only to record here our deep regret that militant Suffragists should have tried—though it seems unsuccessfully—to break up the meetings. The Labour Party is the only party which has sacrificed anything for Women's Suffrage, having, as Mr. Keir Hardie pointed out, "produced a state of affairs in which even Radicals are afraid to give more votes to men, since they cannot do so without enfranchising women." The Independent Labour Party has been in the van of the movement as regards Women's Suffrage. Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr. Snowden, with Mr. O'Grady, voted against the Plural Voting Bill as a protest against the way in which the Government had treated the women, and it was the speeches in the House of Commons of Mr. Henderson and Mr. Hardie which largely contributed to the inability of the Government to proceed with its Franchise Bill after the women's amendment had been ruled out. Apparently it is against the Labour Party, the I.L.P., and these gentlemen in particular, that militancy is directed in an ascending scale of intensity. We can only say that to be interrupted by militants is rapidly becoming a Distinguished Service Order in the Suffrage movement.

## Women and the Legal Profession.

The Law Society has decided to oppose the Bill admitting women to the profession of solicitors. It appears to be quite frankly argued that the Law Society must do so in order to protect men solicitors from the competition of women. No loftier motive than the "defend our bread-and-butter" one is suggested. We wonder whether any one of the gentlemen who practise in law would consent to be put into the position of judging whether he or some other competitor should have any of the posts of honour, or reward, open to solicitors. Probably not one. Yet they are willing, as a body, to determine that women shall not be allowed to enter even as competitors for any of these things.

## The Civil Service Report.

The Report of the Civil Service Commission is now issued, and will be reviewed in our columns by Miss Clementina Black next week. We rejoice to see that the principle is established that the payment of women and men should be equal where their efficiency is equal, *i.e.*, that a woman should not be paid less because she is a woman. That this principle will take long to work out in practice is certain, since the Commissioners also assert that, "in power of sustained work, in the continuity of service, and in adaptability to varying service, the advantage lies with the men." This, our experience convinces us, is a generalisation needing such modification as to be, in effect, radically false. But women will be able to prove, in time, their efficiency, if efficiency is to be the standard of pay. It is when sex is the standard that the position is intolerable.

## Women and Divorce.

It has been the received opinion that facilities for divorce must be disastrous to women, whose only bulwark and shelter is "the sanctity of the home." Social reformers must now take into account the fact that an increasing number of women do not hold this view. That the sanctity of the home is their special concern every woman will admit and assert; but that it is compatible with the present position of women in the home, as defined by law, they absolutely deny. The Women's Co-operative Guild has drawn up a memorandum on Divorce Law Reform, which should be studied by everyone interested in this vital question. In it are quoted various opinions, which may be summed up in one line—"We want to get rid of the idea that a man owns his wife." Here is the heart of the difficulty. The memorandum goes very much further than many women would go, some women (like some men) repudiating divorce altogether. But those who most disagree with the views stated in it would do well to bear in mind the fact that they have acquiesced too long in the abominable view here summed up in a phrase—"that a man owns his wife"—and have made revolt on the part of women inevitable.

## The National Drink Bill.

It is depressing to know that national prosperity leads, as a matter of course, to an increase in the national drink bill. Last year it reached £166,681,000, an excess of five millions over the expenditure in 1912. People who are alarmed at the prospect of Women's Suffrage bringing down this huge sum may surely be at ease. We might take a considerable amount off 166 millions without doing ourselves or the revenue any great harm! Seriously, though it is good to know that the rise is much less than used to be the case at times of commercial prosperity, it is bad enough in all conscience, and the fact that Women's Suffrage has made for temperance reform in other countries will make most of us more keen than ever here. Even the late returns from Illinois show that the women have already done something for reform everywhere outside Chicago itself, where so far they have failed to oust the corrupt interests.

## Our Enemies.

We are glad to have the support of so anti-feminist a paper as the *Times* for our view that the real enemies of Women's Suffrage are those from association with whom the ladies of the Anti-suffrage League would shrink with horror if they realised the position. According to the *Times*, women will find it hard to win the vote in the Eastern States of America, in spite of their successes in the West, because the liquor interests, the "professional politicians," and the many influences that make the passing of Factory Acts and the regulation of child-labour peculiarly difficult in the United States *are all against them*. Here is an admission. Suffragists have always known it. Will not Anti-suffragists now ask themselves *why* the liquor interest and the exploiters of child-labour are against Women's Suffrage? Is not their determined opposition a rather remarkable testimonial in favour of that reform?

## Fashions and the Vote.

We are delighted to find ourselves for once in agreement with the *Times* on a question of feminism. In an interesting article on April 11th, a lively attack is made on the present fashions in women's dress. It is written by a man, and, therefore, not unnaturally ignores some of their real advantages, as for instance, the extremely light weight of the straight narrow skirt, the joy of the unconstricted waist and throat, and the comfort of hats that really fit on to the head. But for hobble-skirts nothing can possibly be said but that the idiots who wear them are a perpetual argument on the Anti-suffrage side. It is true that busy women often have to buy not what they like but what they must, for they generally wear "ready-mades." But we believe the time has come when sensible women will have to run a shop of their own in which they can buy garments that have some regard to sense and beauty. Such a shop has a fortune awaiting it, for already an enormous number of women have frankly abandoned the pursuit of the *mode* and wear the clothes of several seasons ago quite unashamed; and this is possibly why the fashions now run to pure freaks and such atrocities as the latest skirt—in which extreme tightness round the ankles is combined with enormous fulness and weight everywhere else!

## The New Microbe.

In response to cries of distress from some almost too serious-minded Suffragists, we beg to assure our readers (1) that the microbe discovered by Mme. Henry has not been invited to attend the "Woman's Kingdom" Exhibition; (2) that no distinguished Anti-suffragist has volunteered to be bitten by it in the interests of science; (3) that The Common Cause is not a Machiavellian organ of Vivisectionists masquerading under the guise of Woman's Suffrage. We hope that all anxiety will now be set at rest.

# In Parliament.

*[We make no attempt to give a full account of the week's proceedings in Parliament. Our aim is merely to show what Parliament is doing with regard to questions which we have special reason to think would be more satisfactorily dealt with if women had the vote.]*

*Tuesday, April 7th.*

The Inebriates' Bill.

Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey, L.), in moving the second reading of this Bill, explained that it was identical with the measure that was read a second time in July, 1912. It carried out the recommendations of three committees that had considered the subject. After calling attention to the defects in the existing law, he explained that the present definition of a habitual drunkard was to be amended. A non-criminal inebriate now could only be admitted to an institution on his own application, and for this it was suggested that there should be two alternatives. The Bill would enable a man who did not wish to go to a retreat to enter into an undertaking before a magistrate to abstain from intoxicants or to submit himself to the care of a guardian. The expression "intoxicant" was to include for the purposes of the Bill any sedative, narcotic, or stimulant drug. A criminal inebriate who had not been sent to an inebriate reformatory before could be sentenced to detention in such an institution for six months, and one who had been previously detained in a reformatory would be detained for not less than one year or more than three years. With regard to the cost of detaining criminal inebriates, the proposal was that when an inebriate had been committed to a State reformatory, the State should be responsible for the whole cost, and that when he had been sent to a certified reformatory the Treasury should pay half the cost and the local authority the other half.

Mr. C. Bathurst (Wilton, U.) regretted that the hon. member had not taken the opportunity to reply to some of the many criticisms which were made when the Bill was before the House two years ago.

*Wednesday, April 8th.*

Pensions for Widows.

Mr. William Thorne (South West Ham, Lab.) gave notice to call attention on Wednesday, May 6th, to the need for Pensions for Widows, and to move a resolution.

Married Soldiers.

In the debate on the Motion for Adjournment, Mr. Worthington Evans (Colchester, U.) again called attention to the position of soldiers married "off the strength," and demanded what the War Office was going to do about altering the regulations. He asked the Under Secretary of State for War to tell the House something definite with regard to the Government's policy in connection with these soldiers.

Labour Exchanges and Nurses.

Dr. Chapple (Stirlingshire, L.) called attention to the administration of the Labour Exchanges in connection with the employment of nurses. He said:—

"I am going to ask the Board of Trade to instruct the Labour Exchanges not to supply nurses to anyone who applies, because the responsibility is too great. The Labour Exchanges are unable to distinguish between the qualifications of one nurse and another . . . I am doing this in the interests of the sick.

"There was a report in the *Times* yesterday of a young woman who, wearing a nurse's uniform, pleaded guilty to theft. The chief constable said she had been a hospital nurse, but had no qualification whatever. If such a young woman walked into a Labour Exchange and asked for employment, I ask what would be the reply of those in charge? Would they take upon themselves the responsibility of determining that because the girl had on a nurse's uniform she was a trained nurse, and that therefore they could find employment for her, and send her to attend the sick?"

Dr. Chapple then suggested that a nurse should at least produce her certificate of qualification before employment was found for her but was advised that the Labour Exchange was "not a Court of Inquiry" and had "no power to make any inquisition" such as he asked for "in the case of nurses or of members of any other profession." He was told that he must bring in a Bill to amend these matters, but later on in the debate, after referring to the Act, he read out a clause which provides that:—

"The Board of Trade may by any such means as they think fit collect and furnish information as to workpeople seeking engagements."

## SCOTTISH HOME RULE.

The Convention of Scottish Burghs has carried a resolution including Women's Suffrage on the present municipal basis in the report of the Committee on Local Self-government for Scotland.

# I.L.P. Coming of Age Conference.

From Saturday, April 11th, to Tuesday, April 14th, the Independent Labour Party was holding its twenty-first Annual Conference at Bradford, the city of its birth.

The International Socialist Movement was represented by M. Camille Huysmans, M.P., of Belgium (Secretary of the International Socialist Bureau), whose brilliant and witty speeches delighted his audience; Herr Hermann Müller, of the German Social Democratic Party; M. Camelinat, of France (Treasurer to the Commune); and fraternal delegates were present from the Trade Union Movement, the Co-operative Movement, and the N.U.W.S.S.—the latter bringing a message of appreciation of the splendid support which the I.L.P. is giving to the Women's Suffrage Cause both in the country and in the House of Commons.

There were three points which stood out prominently in almost all the speeches, forming, as it were, the key-chord of the whole Conference.

The first was satisfaction at the way in which the I.L.P. had realised the hopes of its founders. Mr. Keir Hardie (who, as the veteran pioneer of the movement, received a tremendous ovation) described its influence as "an inspiration to the working classes of this country, giving them new dignity and independence."

The second was the spirit of Internationalism—the sense of comradeship between the working classes of all countries—a great and growing force making for peace between nations. As M. Huysmans put it, the Socialist feels himself to be a "citizen of the whole world."

The third dominant note, running through almost all the speeches, many of the resolutions on the agenda, and the whole spirit of the Conference, was the note of sex-equality—not an academic theory, but a real comradeship between men and women. The democratic state, as Mr. Keir Hardie pictured it, "would be ruled not by a privileged class, but by the entire people, men and women, standing on terms of equality."

The work which women have done for the Socialist Movement from the first was warmly appreciated. The Conference reaffirmed, as a matter of course, without discussion, the resolution passed last year:—

"That this Conference condemns emphatically the breach of faith of which the Cabinet has been guilty in withdrawing from its oft-repeated pledge to take full Cabinet responsibility for any Woman's Suffrage Bill which passed its second reading by a free vote in the House of Commons, and declares that the only satisfactory method of dealing with the situation thus created is for the Government itself to introduce a Woman's Enfranchisement Bill, framed on broad and democratic lines, and invites the Labour Party to bring all possible pressure to bear on the Government to secure this, and in particular to vigorously oppose and defeat all proposals for amending the franchise or legislation laws unless women are included therein."

Voting Against the Plural Voting Bill.

Mr. Keir Hardie explained before the vote was taken, that this resolution was a mandate to the seven I.L.P. Members of Parliament to vote against the Plural Voting Bill. A resolution calling on the Government to remove the *cause* of militancy was also passed, with only four dissentients.

The annual report contained a qualified approval of the demand of all the Suffrage Societies for a Government measure. The Conference passed an amendment, moved by Mr. Robert Smillie, President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, to "refer back" the sentence expressing this qualified endorsement of the view that "it was useless to rely upon the possibility of obtaining the enfranchisement of women by a Private Member's Bill," and to substitute a statement of complete agreement with this view, and insistence on a Government measure.

In the debate on the Parliamentary Report, Councillor Ayles, Labour candidate for E. Bristol, said the I.L.P. Members of Parliament ought to have offered united opposition to the Plural Voting Bill, in view of the strong feeling expressed at last year's Conference that the Government had no right to touch Registration Reform in any way until their debt to the women had been paid.

Monday afternoon and the greater part of Tuesday were devoted to an exceedingly interesting and vital discussion on the policy of the Labour Party in Parliament, but as the Press and the general public were excluded we can give no report. The debate resulted in the passage of a resolution calling on the I.L.P. Members of Parliament to vote on all questions on their merits, without considering the effect of such votes on the security or insecurity of the Government. Mr. Jowett, M.P. for W. Bradford, has moved this resolution annually, hitherto without success. Its passage this year was greeted with a demonstration

of great enthusiasm and excitement. Mr. Jowett's subsequent election as Chairman of the I.L.P. for the coming year was also very popular. As he is one of the staunchest friends of Women's Suffrage, inside and outside the House of Commons, Suffragists can share in this satisfaction.

## REPORT OF THE I.L.P.

The Report of the I.L.P. has some paragraphs of special interest to Suffragists. As amended by the Conference they run as follows :—

Women's Movement.

"The growth and expansion of Women's activities is one of the most notable facts in connection with our movement. Very important work has been done by the women of the I.L.P., Women's Labour League, Women's Co-operative Guild, and Railway Women's Guild, alike in rousing the interest of women in their rights and duties as Citizens, in promoting the Trade Union organisation of women workers, and in urging forward means for the improvement of women's industrial and domestic conditions. Already the fruits of these efforts are beginning to appear in regard to means for the health and care of mothers and children, and the agitation for pit-head baths for miners, pleasant homes for the aged, clinics for children, and many other proposals that deeply affect the well-being of the working-class and the nation.

"Special mention must also be made of the work done by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Their speakers and officials have been inspired in their propagandist efforts, and at by-elections in which the Labour Party had a candidate their tireless efforts in his support have been acknowledged by friend and opponent alike as having been of the greatest value. It is not part of the work of this report to make predictions, but at the rate at which public opinion in support of the women's claim is growing an early victory for their cause is assured. There is pride for us in the fact that at a time when there was literally no public opinion in support of the women's claim, the I.L.P., by its declarations and its constitution, and its advocacy of "Votes for Women," did very much towards creating that opinion which is now so manifest."

Referring to the demand of Suffragists for a Government measure on the ground that no other was of any use, the Report before amendment ran :—

"Without fully endorsing that view, we agree that either by adopting a private member's Bill, or on their own initiative, the Government must take up this question, and make it a Government measure. . . . If nothing is done further in this Parliament it will be necessary to make this a prominent issue at the next General Election, so that the Government will not be able to make the excuse that there is no popular mandate for the reform."

Mr. Smillie, in a fine speech, moved an amendment to substitute an emphatic statement that the I.L.P. agreed that only a Government measure was any use. This was carried.

*[We report Miss Marshall's speech to the Conference on another page.]*

# The N.U.T. at Lowestoft.

## OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.

### Status of the Teacher.

The main Conference of the N.U.T. was opened at the Skating Rink on Monday, Mr. W. B. Steer, the new President, taking as the subject of his address "The Status of the Teacher." He pointed out that the threatened dearth of teachers would inflict great injury upon thousands of children, and that the present unattractiveness of the teaching profession stood in the way of every educational reform. This threatened dearth of teachers, he said, was due to their unsatisfactory status :—

Question of Remuneration.

"Closely interwoven with the question of the status of the teacher is his remuneration. There is one headmaster who receives more than £500 per year, but there are two who receive less than £50. There are 103 headmasters who receive more than £400 per year, but there are 501 who receive less than £100. There are 227 headmasters who receive more than £350 per year, but there are 2,153 who receive less than £120. Similarly, while there are 79 head mistresses who receive between £300 and £350 per year, there are three who receive less than £50, and 1,162 who receive less than £80. There are 275 head mistresses who receive more than £250 per year, but there are 2,876 who receive less than £90. If to these numbers I should add the 4,406 certificated class masters who receive less than £100 per year, and the 5,127 certificated class mistresses who receive less than £70 per year, it will be obvious to the most rigid economist in our land that there are at least 14,650 fully-qualified teachers serving to-day in the nation's schools who cannot be said to be earning a living wage. . . . The average salary of £146 3s., which the nation pays its certificated masters, is absolutely and relatively inadequate, because it compels the teacher to live a narrower life, both socially and mentally, than is good for the influence which he is required to wield, and relatively because with equal capacity a man can secure a much better remuneration in other professions. And the same thing must be said of the average salary of £101, which the nation pays its certificated mistresses. From a patriotic standpoint the claim of the National Union of Teachers is entirely wise, for the potential recruits will not enter the teaching profession until the nation can assure an eventual salary of at least £200 per year to every man, and £160 to every woman."

Administrative Posts.

Mr. Steer also pleaded for a system of promotion from the teaching ranks to administrative and inspectoral posts.

"If it be not regarded as vaulting ambition for the newly-called barrister to aspire to the Woolsack, if the recently diplomaed doctor may reasonably hope for an establishment in Harley Street, if every curate is a potential Archbishop of Canterbury, if Napoleon's dictum were sensible that every private soldier should carry a marshal's baton in his knapsack —then it should not be deemed presumptuous for the newly-certificated teacher to dream that he may one day become chief inspector of England or Wales, or may be permanent secretary of the Board of Education.

"In every other profession there is the advantage of prospect, and teaching would acquire a different estimation if it led naturally to those posts of responsibility and control for which it is the best because the most natural kind of preparation. I am convinced that the constant supply of efficient teachers will never be secured until the better-paid posts of the profession of education are all put within the teacher's reach. This plan would make administration more effective, inspection more rational, and teaching infinitely more hopeful, and, therefore, more effective. . . . I hasten to a conclusion. The status of the teacher is unsatisfactory. Better remuneration is the fundamental remedy, but mere £ s. d. will fail of its purpose unless, by opening every possible avenue of promotion to the teacher, the country gives to the teaching profession that meed of esteem which from the value of its services, both now and in the greater future, it really deserves."

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

On Tuesday morning the Conference discussed the claim of women teachers to equal pay with men for equal work. The resolution on teachers' salaries, moved by Mr. J. T. Boulter and seconded by Mr. H. Pearson, two members of the Executive, set up one scale for London and another for the rest of England and Wales. In London it put £100 as the minimum for men and £250 as the maximum, and £90 as the minimum for women and £200 as the maximum. For the rest of the country, the minimum for men was put at £90 and the maximum at £200, while for women £80 was the minimum and £160 the maximum. The resolution concluded as follows :—

"Women teachers employed in boys' schools should be remunerated at the same rate as the men teachers in those schools."

Some of the women teachers regarded this last clause as inserted with a view to displacing the women employed in boys' schools. Several speakers, however, maintained that it was a definite step towards securing equal remuneration for men and women, as there were not enough men to take the places of women employed in boys' schools.

Miss A. Dawson, of East Lambeth, then moved an amendment eliminating the proposed scales of pay for women, and making the men's scales applicable to all teachers. She said that she was advocating this policy as much in the interests of men as of women, and argued the case for equal payment by asking :—

"Is not the cost of living the same for men and women; do men eat and drink more; does not our training take as long, and have not a woman's qualifications to be as high as a man's? Is not our grant-earning capacity equally good? Even our subscription to the National Union of Teachers is the same, though in Herefordshire the women who ran an equal strike risk with the men did not get equal strike pay."

When the vote was taken, the President announced an overwhelming majority against the amendment. A number of women then rose to claim a division. The Union's standing orders provide that fifty members of the Conference can demand a vote by card, which means that the delegates hand in cards giving the names of their associations, and the membership of the associations has to be counted before the result of the vote can be announced. The division resulted in 11,017 votes for the amendment and 58,483 against. On Wednesday the question of Women's Suffrage was discussed, but the result was not known at time of going to press.

## WOMEN POSTAL WORKERS AND THE HOLT REPORT.

The Report of the Holt Committee on grievances in the Post Office is extremely unsatisfactory from the woman's point of view. Women, in their evidence before the Committee, asked for equal pay for equal work, and for equal opportunities with men to enter all branches of the service, and to receive promotion irrespective of sex. They pointed out that the theory that a man is paid more because he is assumed to have a family to support is unfair, because, as a matter of fact, the State often pays the best salaries to unmarried men, while a large proportion of women wage-earners have others dependent on them. Also widows with children dependent upon them, if allowed to re-enter the postal service, are paid no more than the unmarried women. As regards the supposed excess of sick-leave granted to women, they argue that women's ill-health is often caused by lack of means to procure comfort and recreation. In an article in the *Manchester Guardian* of April 8th, Miss Esther G. Roper summarises the manner in which the women's claims have been met :—

"No woman under the Holt Report gains a penny in wages, although they put forward a claim for equality of payment. The report does not even refer by one word to the fact that women had made such a claim.

It says: 'Your Committee recommend the following scales of pay,' followed by tables of wages for whole classes of women without one single alteration. A member of one of the unions speaking this month, said: 'The average wage of her own class in Manchester was about 18s. a week, whereas the Corporation dustmen received 25s.'

"Outside London the disparity (21s.) between the maximum wages paid to men and women counter clerks and telegraphists was reduced 1s. a week by the Hobhouse Report. Now the Holt Report increases the men's maximum by 2s. a week, making the disparity 22s. The women have only two higher classes open to them—assistant supervisorships and supervisorships—and the vacancies are very few, less than half the proportion of vacancies for promotion for the men. Women's highest salary is £175, while men's first step (overseership) places them on a scale to £190.

"It is important to remember in all these calculations that pensions are based on salaries. It is true that the Holt Report recommends that the salaries of the women clerks at the head office in London should be raised £5 a year. It also adds four hours a week to their work. Then they lose overtime pay, at present granted to the staff, so that, as a worker said, 'the Department will economise in my case to the extent of £8 8s. 6d. in the first year and £3 8s. 6d. in the next.'"

## WOMAN POLICE OFFICER FOR LIVERPOOL.

Mrs. Hughes, who has been appointed police officer in Liverpool, has been prison matron for the last two years, and has had the superintendence of all grades of female prisoners. Previous to this she was sanitary inspector under the Liverpool Corporation. Her main duty will be to take evidence and make inquiries from women and children against whom offences have been committed, and it is expected that her appointment will be the means of obtaining much fuller information in certain cases. It will also make it possible to give better attention to children and young girls who come under the supervision of the police. Mrs. Hughes will have a room of her own with two clerical assistants, and will be in direct communication with the Chief Constable, Mr. Caldwell, who has for some time urged the necessity of a woman officer.

## WORK-A-DAY WOMEN.

### A Correction.

In the rush of going to press extra early, on account of the Easter holidays, an old proof of Mrs. Chew's story, "Work-a-day Women," was used instead of the one corrected by the author. Since the story was written, the Trade Board Act has been extended to the tailoring trade, with the consequence that what was true a short time ago becomes untrue to-day. The story, as printed, states that prices amounting to 2d. per hour are still the rates paid for the work described. Mrs. Chew writes to remind us that she corrected this in proof, and that the rates now paid may not drop below 3¼d. an hour.

## SHOP ASSISTANTS IN CONFERENCE.

The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, held their Conference at Leicester on April 12th and 13th. A general Suffrage resolution was proposed, but an Adult Suffrage amendment was accepted by the movers and carried with only five dissentients in a meeting of 308. (This was the just and consistent corollary to the resolution adopted earlier in the meeting that the Union should take up political activity, and levy a political fund, to which the women members will have to contribute).

For the first time in the history of the Union a Women's meeting was on the official programme. Speakers remarked that while the women members had increased in number from 5,000 to 23,000 in the last four years, yet the advance in activity and capacity has been even more marked. The policy of the Union has been to form Women's Councils within the existing organisation, not separate Women's branches, and the training in speaking and in the conduct of business gained by the women members in these Councils has enabled them to take a much more effective part in the general meetings. Unfortunately there is as yet no woman on the Executive.

The local members of the N.U.W.S.S. distributed literature, sold copies of The Common Cause and got a large number of F.W.S. cards signed.

## WELSH WOMEN DEMAND BATHS FOR THEIR MEN FOLK.

A correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* writes that the wives of the South Wales miners' agents are forming a women's committee to forward the installation of baths at the pit-head under the powers conferred upon the industry by the last Mines Act. Under this Act there is no compulsion on any colliery company to provide baths unless the workmen themselves demand an installation and are prepared to pay a share of the cost. So far there has been no initiative in the matter on the part of the miners themselves; so the women are determined to take the matter in hand. They are quite confident, says the *Westminster Gazette*, "that a short campaign will be effectual, and with the watchwords of 'Less drudgery' and 'Cleanliness in the home,' they feel convinced that the men will vote solidly for a reform which some of the men's leaders themselves declare will be more far-reaching than even the Minimum Wage Act."

# NEWS FROM ABROAD.

## UNITED STATES.

According to a telegram (March 21st), thirty-four Senators voted for and thirty-five against the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution. This was accordingly published in the Press and reported in The Common Cause and in *Jus Suffragii*. According, however, to the *Woman's Journal* (March 28th):—

"For the first time in history, the U.S. Senators gave a majority vote last week in favour of the nation-wide equal Suffrage amendment. It stood 35 to 34."

This, of course, makes no difference to the actual issue, as a two-thirds vote is necessary, but the point is interesting. The *Woman's Journal* adds:—

"The debate was even more remarkable in some ways than the vote. It extended over many days and the opposition was directed almost wholly to the form of the measure. Very few of the Senators expressed objection to Women's Suffrage in principle and not one denied that it was sure to come."

### Training Schools for Women Trade Union Organisers.

*Jus Suffragii* reports:—

"The National Women's Trade Union League of America has arranged a training school for women trade union organisers, who are in great demand in the United States. The school is in Chicago and gives theoretical and practical instruction. Class-room work includes the history of trade unions in America, industrial organisation, study of trade boards and arbitration, Parliamentary law, public speaking, Press work, book-keeping and many other subjects. Practical administration and organisation are carried out. About thirty trade union women are attending the courses."

### Chicago Elections.

In the State of Illinois women voted for the first time in the municipal elections on April 7th. It is estimated that about 70 per cent. of the women registered recorded their votes, and that, outside Chicago, their vote has added considerably to the strength of the Temperance party. According to a Reuter's correspondent, public-houses will be abolished from sixteen counties and eleven cities as the result of the electons, but in Chicago itself the Suffragists and temperance reform party suffered a severe defeat, the old party machine proving too strong for them:—

"The nine women who were running for the office of alderman in Chicago were all overwhelmingly defeated in yesterday's election. "Bathhouse" John Coughlin, against whom a very spirited contest was waged by Miss Drake, was re-elected alderman of the First Ward with a majority of 4,000. More women must have voted for him than for his opponent. . . . Outside Chicago altogether 1,000 bar-rooms in the smaller cities and towns have been closed by the votes of women. None of the localities which were 'dry' before the election were lost, while many new communities were enrolled on the temperance side."

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* reports that outside Chicago between fifty and sixty women school officials, tax collectors, and holders of other minor posts were elected, and that, though in Chicago none of the women candidates for the office of alderman were elected, Coughlin's majority was reduced by six hundred votes. He adds:—

"The women took immense interest in the contest, and all round the proportion cast of the total possible women's vote compared very favourably with that in the case of the men voters. In Chicago fully 150,000, or 75 per cent. of the women, registered their votes. Women polling clerks and judges were to be found in every booth, and although out of respect to the new voting element polling stations had been established in more refined quarters the women showed no hesitation in going to register their votes where the booth was in the old-fashioned barber's shop or poolroom."

## AUSTRIA AND NEW YORK.

### Suffragists as Housewives.

*Die Frauen Frage* gives an account of a Woman's Society called "The State Organisation of the Women of Austria," the object of which is to combine against increasing prices of food, milk, and coal. Its members came to an agreement with a society of peasants by means of which milk was greatly reduced in price. In time their numbers grew to 10,000, and they succeeded in securing a reduction on coal and meat. Some of these women are now members of the Commission, which fixes the retail price of meat. They are now fighting against heavy taxation of food. In Vienna the women are co-operating with the Tradesmen's Association, and are represented on the Council of that body.

*Jus Suffragii* reports that:—

"Mrs. Julian Heath, President of the New York Housewives' Federation, who has led the movement for better homes and pure food, has discovered that all the work for these causes was done by Suffragists and that one got no help from Anti-suffragists. Mrs. Heath herself was a well-known Anti-Suffragist, but her experience of the work of Suffragists for the home has caused her to join them."

## HUNGARY.

*Jus Suffragii* also reports that:—

"The Civic Board of Guardians (Waisenarut) to the Town Council acknowledged that the Feminists Society was the only one of all the Women's Societies and 'Patronages' which met the call for help in the case of deserted children and girl mothers and performed most valuable work."

# GENIUS, AND WOMEN PAINTERS.

How many times during the last five or six years, I wonder, have women been reminded—in season and out of season, in conversation, by platform speakers, in print—that their sex has produced no Michael Angelo, and that Raphael was a man?

These facts are indisputable; and they are supposed, as a rule, to demonstrate clearly to the meanest capacity that creatures so poorly endowed collectively with creative genius should have no voice in determining the destiny of the threepence weekly which they contribute to the National Insurance, or in influencing decisions on household economy, or the training of midwives, as they arise in Parliament.

Leaving on one side the many attractive fields for discussion suggested by this conclusion, I wish to offer a few remarks on the premise.

Great creative geniuses appear but rarely in the human family, and the mode and reason of their meteoric appearance from time to time is but little understood. It may, however, be asserted perhaps that their advent coincides with periods of mental activity and rapid development in the race from which they spring; and that it is by no means at all periods of its history, or under all circumstances that *à priori* might be deemed favourable, that a nationality thus adds to the common heritage of humanity.

Hitherto, women have not shared with men in any sort of equality the mental enlightenment which from time to time has swept like a fertilising flood across expectant humanity in some favoured race, at some particular point of its history. When the great call came, the great opportunity dawned, men were free everywhere to rise and greet the dawn—taking their part in the high emprise, the new learning, the fresh inspiration. And from among their number—singled out by what strange destiny who shall tell—the darling of humanity has appeared all radiant, to exemplify in his own person for coming ages the flowering moments of his race.

**BAS-RELIEF BY DOROTHY ROPE.**
One of the exhibits at Woman's Kingdom.

It is a commonplace of observation that the artist needs freedom for his development, and instinctively adopts a life untrammelled by convention. Women are not free—they have never been free. When the winds of a new inspiration swept across European countries, or blew from Olympia through Greece, or stirred to high ideals the Taoists of China, they shook indeed the purdah curtains of humanity, behind which from age to age, woman everywhere has performed her menial tasks, or taken her dull ease, but they did not blow them wide. If the age of woman has dawned—and it has dawned—it is not to take a stand beside the great creative artists of the world that the pioneers of freedom cast aside their chains and step forth at last from their long seclusion—it is to lead a world-wide revolt against the prejudice and ancient tyranny that, in the teeth of Nature and development, struggle ever to keep woman the inferior creature they proclaim her.

Till woman lives with the life of her nation and her race, how can we look to her to give us from among her ranks a creative genius whose clear and impassioned vision of life shall be hailed as representing the dreams of humanity? We wait for her—we may wait for her long, even conceivably for a hundred years, but she will come.

In the meantime, we may expect to find women painters among us making the same sort of progress towards equality with the sex that has hitherto monopolised to so great an extent the intellectual opportunities of life, as we are making in all the other departments of human activity. In the last thirty or forty years, woman has done wonderful things. Her attainments are not yet as men's attainments; her heights are not, save very exceptionally, the mountain ranges of the male—but see from whence she has come, in this short time, this little span of years! In very truth her progress is astounding. In the domains of medicine, science, politics, learning, trade—along a thousand paths formerly closed, she presses eagerly forward, and in the domain of art also, year by year, she steadily progresses towards that equality with man which we may safely prophesy shall be a development of the future.

As it is, we have already among us a small group of women painters who hold their own indisputably when compared with the men among whom their works in exhibitions are hung, if we except the very few names of first rank that take unquestioned precedence in our galleries.

When the old Water-colour Society's rooms were opened to the public on April 4th, it must have been a surprise to many to find that the place of chief importance in the present exhibition is filled by a woman's contribution. Laura Knight's "Boys Swimming" is the most important figure picture in the gallery, and also the largest painting; and after Sargent's small but brilliant essay likely to attract the most attention. In 1912 a strong, effective painting by I. L. Gloag—"1860" (since bought for the Luxembourg)—held the place of honour in the Institute of Painters in Oils, while among other women members of the Institute the large work of Anna Airy, full of movement and force, the fine individual portraits of Flora Lion, and the bold treatment of the nude figure by B. Fagan—especially as exemplified in her 1913 picture, "Retrospection"—will be remembered by many as holding their own, and more than holding their own, among the pictures by male exhibitors.

Among the painters of large decorative designs who exhibit in England, Mary Sargant Florence surely stands in the first rank with her strange, bold, original figures, and admirable effects of calculated perspective. Anne Estelle Rice represents women among the Post Impressionist group as an equal, while the magnificent portraits of Cecilia Beaux, well-known both in London and Paris, are held by many to entitle her to rank next to Sargent in his own genre. In black and white E. Gabain takes a high place as an imaginative lithographic artist, and Eleanor Brickdale as an illustrator is often inimitable. Critics will agree that to these names should be added those of the well-known artists A. L. Swynverton, Anna Lee Merrit, Marianne Stokes, Hilda Fearon, and Constance Rea, and that without exhausting the list of those who at present can hold their own with men exhibitors on the walls of our galleries.

To say this is perhaps not to say very much. Women painters of attainment are few and men painters of like power are many. But that some women have already taken their position as compeers of men at a time of great artistic activity and achievement, is one of those significant facts which, alike in art as in other fields of endeavour, mark the flowing tide.

The surprise of the near future in artistic expression will be, I venture to prophesy, the contributions that will come from those who, set free themselves and voicing the freedom of their sex, shall transmute the new life surging in their veins into a fresh and distinctive utterance, a vision hitherto withheld, for which the world has waited until these later days.

M. Lowndes.

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# Correspondence.

*[Correspondents are urged to write briefly, as we receive each week a greater number of letters than we can possibly print. They are also warned to write on one side of a page only. Letters with writing on both sides must in future be consigned to the waste-paper basket.]*

## THE PROBLEM OF THE MARRIED WORKING WOMAN.

Madam,—A recent correspondent asks, "Is not marriage primarily ordained for the procreation of children?" Arising out of that, may I add two further questions?

(1) Who, with such a conception of marriage, would ever marry?

(2) How can the natural consequences of married love be of greater significance than the love itself?

It is incredible that any healthy minded person should ever marry for the sake of having children. People marry, as a rule, because they fall in love. Their love is exploited, quite independently of their wills, for the purpose of continuing the species; but it does not, therefore, follow that the propagation of the species is of greater importance than the love on which it lives. The essential part of marriage is the emotional bond between husband and wife; children, however greatly desired or desirable, are not essential to a right union.

And to put motherhood before wifehood would not only deny the real meaning and the highest joys of married life; it would rob marriage of its very attractiveness. Substitute the prospect of motherhood for the prospect of a husband's love, and how many girls would wish to marry? And where—oh, where, is the man who would care to be regarded by his wife as a means to an end, rather than as an end in himself? The holy state of matrimony would become rapidly unpopular, and the jealous race would need to raise fresh outcries against unfertility. To extol motherhood above wifehood would be to defeat motherhood itself. Men and women will never find sufficient attraction in marriage as a breeding process.

We are made a little higher than the beasts of the field, and not a few childless lovers and disappointed parents have yet found fellowship with the angels in the love which is so infinitely greater than parental instinct.

Minnie Taylor.

## MILITANT SUFFRAGISM.

Madam,—Will you allow me, as a reader of your paper, to comment upon the amazing paragraph concerning the militant suffragists, in The Common Cause for March 27th? The sanctimoniousness of the whole paragraph would do credit to an "anti" Bishop; and though the writer is, of course, entitled to disapprove of militancy, she certainly is not entitled to describe the militants as "those to whom the true significance of the Woman's Movement has become invisible." She would do well to remember that it was not a Constitutional Suffragist, but Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who wrote "The Great Scourge and How to End it," in which splendid and courageous book the following passage occurs:—"The demand for votes for women is an attack upon everything that is represented by the Piccadilly Flat Case." Does any Constitutional Suffragist profess to understand the "true significance" of the Movement better than this? The writer of the paragraph would also do well to read some of Mrs. Pankhurst's speeches! Further, does this writer seriously believe that if these women had forgotten the significance of the Cause, they would voluntarily face the death of starvation seven or eight times in one year, for the sake of that Cause?

The same writer deplores the "perversion of enthusiasm and courage and devotion into revenge and destruction." Surely, "revenge" is a most extraordinary word to use in connection with women who insist upon offering their own lives, instead of taking those of their enemies; and who voluntarily endure far more suffering with each imprisonment than they have inflicted throughout the whole course of their seven years' campaign! Truly, the "revenge" in the hearts of these women is of a kind which has been all too rare since the time, two thousand years ago, when a certain celebrated "Criminal" forced upon mankind the choice of either accepting His Message, or putting Him to death!

Elaine Kidd.

[*We regret that we are unable to agree with Miss Kidd either in her view of militancy, or of the meaning of the death of Christ. This is not the place to discuss the latter question, but with regard to the former, our reluctant conviction that militant action is now inspired, at least in part, by a desire for revenge, is forced upon us by reading the official organ of the W.S.P.U., and by the defence offered (for instance) by Miss Richardson. It is true that the attempt of the Government to coerce Suffragists is responsible for this. But how, then, can we deny that the attempt of militant Suffragists to coerce public opinion is the continuance of a vicious circle? Someone must break it. Is it not the post of honour to do so?*—Ed., C.C.]

## OUR DISBELIEF IN MILITANCY.

Madam,—Cannot we Suffragists who believe earnestly in the justice of our cause, and yet avow our disbelief in militancy, make some move that will give public proof of this disbelief? I see, for instance, that a fund is to be raised to restore the Scottish Church that a militant suffragette damaged a week or so back. Why do not we, as a body, give a substantial donation towards this? Or else we might take upon our shoulders the cost of the restoration of "The Rokeby Venus." This last would be but a small thing, but it would be a public demonstration of our faith, and might do real good inasmuch as it would prove that some of us, at least, are not Goths, Huns, and Vandals where art and sentiment are concerned. I should be

glad to do any necessary work in connection with such a movement, and to make a donation. From a conversation at a Club dinner, I know I am not alone in my desire for such reparation.

E. P. Prendys.

## A CENTENARY OF PEACE.

Madam,—Is it not a fact that June, 1915, will be a centenary of peace with France? And is it not advisable that the women of the two countries, and especially the suffragists, should celebrate this long period of peace?

My knowledge of history is always open to criticism, but I believe (June, 1815) Waterloo was our last battle against France.

H. G. Cohen.

## SUFFRAGISTS' PROGRAMME.

Madam,—In your issue of March 27th, is a letter signed Arthur R. Blair, which I heartily endorse, having felt the need of it at local meetings, and, in fact, had a note to make a similar suggestion to our local committees. This letter, however, suggests how great an assistance it would be to *all* propagandists to have a well-thought-out and *simply expressed* programme of the reforms which women would use their vote to carry through. The N.U.W.S.S. having selected the subjects, six of the most likely could head the list in bold type, followed by the remainder in smaller. And if it could be arranged, as far as possible, that this definite programme should be hung out and always seen in a prominent position at every Suffrage meeting, club, or society in the United Kingdom, I feel sure it would be found a great factor in spreading the Cause, and also helping others who are Suffragists but have not the time to study the question very deeply. An artisan couple in this neighbourhood have undertaken to help in propaganda amongst their own class, and the first thing they said to me was, "Please give us a short, good answer to the question, 'Why are you a Suffragist?'" A simple and definite programme would have been invaluable here. May I extend my letter by adding to the suggestion that such a programme for use at meetings should be printed on a glazed canvas with rollers; it might be a good investment for clubs and centres. And would it not be possible to have leaflets of the same, for flooding a locality, and to arrange that many or all centres should simultaneously advertise in their several local papers this same programme? The effect, of course, would be the more marked the greater the area over which such simultaneous action took place.

With apologies for sending you such a long letter.

K. E. Trounson.

## ELECTION AGENTS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Madam,—May I call attention to a point not to be neglected in women's campaigns before the next general election? I have seen no mention of it in your paper at any rate. At most elections a candidate is very much in the hands of his agent. This insidious agency, for good or evil, is ever at hand whispering temptations in the ear of a candidate, especially if he be new to political life. He has worked so many elections, gained so much experience, his hand has felt the pulse of the constituency, the chief associations have assured him that "such and such a question is not popular," etc., etc. And the candidate of to-day is so hustled and over-worked, that he often despairs at last of doing more than obeying local marching orders. It requires some firmness and levelheadedness to insist on his assurance to non-electors being abided by in the keen competition of elections.

These same agents have for many years, for the most part, set themselves against introducing woman suffrage into the election addresses, partly from cowardice, partly because they dread the extra work, clerical and canvassing, that the women's vote would entail. Many agents are such purely for bread-winning purposes, and their chief object is to show a large number of victories won under their agency, as testimonials to use in gaining further employment. They therefore want as safe a fight as they can engineer by eliminating all risky issues. Women's attention needs concentrating very greatly on local associations and *their choice of an election agent*, seeing that he can so easily, at the last moment, put a spoke in the wheel which we may flatter ourselves is running smoothly and certainly to the winning post.

H. Sophia Stanger.

## FLOGGING CLAUSES OF THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Madam,—I am sorry to see that our paper *deplores* the flogging clauses in the Criminal Law Amendment Act. We are far too soft in our treatment of that class of brute. Believe me, they do not in the least mind fines and imprisonment, but hurt their precious skins and they *shriek* for mercy. The lash is the one and only good medicine for them. I should also like to see women procurers sentenced to be birched by wardresses. They *have* no conscience, so it is no use searching for it, but corporal punishment would greatly deter them. You cannot further *degrade* a man or woman of that stamp. Sentiment is wasted on them.

Beatrice Macleod-Cavey.

[*We cannot too strongly dissent from the assertion that any human being is beyond pity or beyond hope.*—Ed., C.C.]

## HOUSING PROBLEM IN OUR VILLAGES.

Sir William Chance writes that in his letter published on April 3rd, "thirty-three" was printed instead of 331, the figures not being very clear in the typescript, a 4 having been corrected to a 1, which gave it the appearance of having been crossed out. (Page 994, line 14.)

## THE PEOPLE'S THEATRE.

Miss Rosina Philippi has scored a real triumph in the opening of her "People's Theatre." The 2d. and 6d. seats were crammed, and the audience enjoyed "The Merchant of Venice" with intense seriousness and great enthusiasm. "The School for Scandal," "Romeo and Juliet," and perhaps "Candida" are to follow. We are proud to know that it is a woman who has made this daring experiment, and interested to hear that the audience which flocked to her in response was largely composed of men!

## "BRER RABBIT AND MR. FOX."

Children are not generally especially provided for in the way of plays at Easter time. This year, however, Mrs. Percy Dearmer is looking after them, and has a special Matinee Holiday Season at the Little Theatre. "Brer Rabbit and Mr. Fox" is the play she has chosen, and her production of the well-known nursery story with the enchanting music of Mr. Martin Shaw certainly deserves all success. It is good to see on the stage our old favourites from the book, and together with dear old Uncle Remus and John and Mary, who sit in the corner of the stage, we see some of the exciting adventures Brer Rabbit goes through as he manages again and again to get the better of Brer Fox, and in the last scene succeeds in fulfilling his promise and proudly rides to Miss Meadows' merry frolic on Brer Fox's back, thus having his revenge for the Tar Baby trick played on him by Brer Fox and Brer Bear in the first scene.

Perhaps there is rather more dancing and singing and less action than children care for, but the "grown ups" cannot fail to enjoy the scenes between Mr. Hayden Coffin and Miss Evelyn Althous as Mr. Kildee and Sindy Ann. The acting throughout is excellent. Mr. Hayden Coffin plays the one part which is not "in the original." He is a spirit conceived and born of music, and fitly played by a musician. Fabia Drake plays the part of Brer Rabbit with much spirit and endears himself to all with the way he carries out his tricks, while the other animals are equally attractive. The "persons in the story" are all good too, especially Fay Lilmar as King Deer's daughter, a very pretty little dancer, and Doris Prosser as Miss Janey, so that altogether the play should prove a welcome addition to the list of "treats" for the children home for the holidays.

## THE "DAILY HERALD" BIRTHDAY NUMBER.

The *Daily Herald* publishes a double number on its third birthday, with articles and messages by H. G. Wells, G. K. Chesterton, H. Belloc, Israel Zangwill, and others. With admirable impartiality, it prints them all—from those which find in the *Daily Herald* "one of the perilously few remaining facts in this island to save its perilously few intelligent patriots from final black despair" (Whew!), to that which finds it "a bit of a nuisance" in its rebelliousness.

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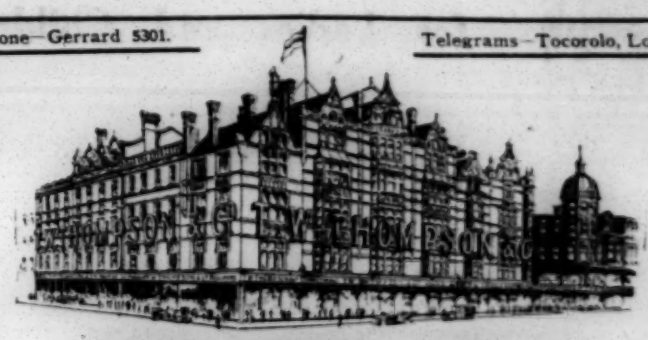

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**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.**

# Women—and Children.

Women of to-day are apt to resent with some indignation the old classification which divided the human race into "men"—and "women and children," and the scientific (?) school of thought which regarded women as permanently undeveloped humans is now largely discredited. But a new meaning attaches to the old phrase, and the classing together of women and children's interests has come to mean something of which women may be intensely proud.

We publish this week articles on the work done in other countries where women have won the vote. It appears from all the records that their first object has been to protect child-life. In Australia, for instance, the women have been rather slow to use the vote for their own protection, perhaps because in most of the States they won it very easily. But in Australia, as in all other enfranchised countries, they made no delay in protecting the child. And it is without doubt this desire more than any other which is the driving-force behind the agitation here. "There is no claim which women can make on men," said a writer in the *Times* last Saturday, "comparable to the claim which men may urge upon women—that their children shall have a chance to be born healthy." But women retort precisely the same claim when they demand moral reforms, and inquiry into the nature and causes of venereal disease. They demand that their children shall be given a chance to be born healthy.

In a leading article on April 13th, the *Times* points out that "the liquor interests are concerned in keeping women away from the polls," and the *British Journal of Inebriety* points out once more the intimate connection between alcoholism and vice. If women demand temperance reform and alarm "the liquor interest," they do so in the interest of their children. In the same number of the *Times* appears an appeal from Sir Victor Horsley for a "Ministry of Public Health," which shall begin at the right end of life—with the baby and the baby's mother—and in a parallel column, an article on "Baby's Milk" heaps scorn on the imbecility of devoting "energy and funds to the provision of sanatoria, open-air schools . . . and all the varied means of combating tuberculosis in its earlier or later stages, when we still allow the staple food of children to be contaminated at its source."

Again, an article in the same journal, written by "A Working Woman," points out that children—or shall we say babies?—of eight or seven, or five, *or three years old*, in this country of ours are already engaged in helping their mothers to earn a livelihood. The money that might save them now will be voted to-morrow for the building and upkeep of hospitals, prisons, workhouses, lunatic asylums, to keep them in when they have grown up into the maimed and starved and stunted manhood and womanhood for which this dread childhood is preparing them. Are we not, do you think, a little over-patient with those "exploiters of child labour" whose opposition to Women's Suffrage is so determined? Or would it do any harm "if motherhood had some share in moulding the laws which regulate our State"? After all, we have to pay in the end for our human wreckage. Why not save it in the beginning instead of wrecking it first and trying afterwards to save?

Such folly is only possible when humanity is trying to think with only half its brain. Why not try both, for a change?

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## Women's Vote and the Empire.

Anti-suffragists are fond of asserting that women cannot think imperially, and this is cited as a serious argument against the enfranchisement of the women of these islands. I have just returned from a fifteen months' tour through the self-governing British Dominions of the Southern Hemisphere, and my experience of these two countries, which have enfranchised their women, as well as of South Africa, where they are still voteless, enables me most emphatically to contradict this wholesale indictment of my sex.

It must not be supposed that I am a mere globe-trotter. My knowledge of Australia began seventeen years ago. I was joint principal of a school and training college in Sydney with my friend, Miss Newcomb, for eleven years, and fought for and helped to obtain the vote for women in both the Federal and State Parliaments. In the summer of 1912, after three years in England, my friend and I started on a lecturing tour on the subject of Women's Suffrage through South Africa and Australasia, travelling right through New Zealand, from Auckland in the North to Invercargill, where the most southern lamp-post in the world marks the limit of civilised settlement.

A statement in one of the papers in Christchurch, N.Z. (the *Star*), to the effect that the women of the Dominion, though enfranchised themselves since 1893, had done little to help their sisters in the Homeland, who were struggling and suffering to obtain a like privilege, led to the formation of a "Women's Suffrage Union for the British Dominions overseas," and it struck my friends and myself as very remarkable that, while the account of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance left these New Zealanders comparatively cold, they all entered with zest and eagerness into the conception of this new Union, which would strengthen national kinship and provide a new bond of sympathy in the conflict for this common cause.

The same was true in South Africa. Among the British women of Natal and Cape Province, to whom these islands are still "home," as to the inhabitants of Australia and of New Zealand, no more attractive idea could be presented than that of co-operating with their British sisters in a fight for freedom and for posterity. In many of the Women's Suffrage Societies in the Union, Dutch and British women are working side by side whole-heartedly. Thus in this land, so recently torn and shaken by internal strife, the sisterhood of woman is becoming an overwhelming force, which is going to sweep away race-hatred, the legacy of a long and terrible war. Surely such a union of the women of South Africa for a noble ideal is one of the finest conceptions of which a poet could dream, and may have almost miraculous practical results.

At a meeting in Cape Province, a learned professor, in proposing a vote of thanks for my speech, said: "The last speaker I heard on this platform was Sir Starr Jameson; he spoke of higher politics, of war, and of finance, but Miss Hodge spoke of the decline in the rate of infant mortality, the care of children, and the raising of the standard of morality." He went on to suggest that the preservation of life was at least as beneficial to the race as the wanton destruction of it, and the elevation of the moral tone of the community of more importance than the piling up of material wealth. It is to the credit of the politicians of Australia and New Zealand that they have realised that, at this stage of evolution, the women must be free citizens if they are to bear a race capable of carrying on the work that their enterprising ancestors have begun. When the true history of our remote dominions under the Southern Cross comes to be written, the women's work as empire builders will have a large place. Their sufferings and unselfish devotion, their sympathy and active co-operation, have made homes in the lands at the back of beyond at a terrible cost to themselves.

These are some of the ways in which the women's influence has been exerted. The rate of infant mortality has been lowered from 103 per thousand in 1901 to 68.5 per thousand in 1911 in Australia; in New Zealand it was only 51.12 per thousand in 1912. In the British Isles it was 109 per thousand in 1909. Several Acts have been passed to secure the purity of the milk supply—so essential to young children—and in the big towns there are special milk institutes in the poorer streets.

That the average physique of the children is good is shown by the number of boys accepted as fit for military service, which is compulsory under the Defence Act. Of 100,000 lads between 13 and 14 years old, only 4,000 were rejected as unfit for military service. "It is very doubtful," says Miss Ackermann, in "Australia from a Woman's Point of View," "if any other country could claim so large a percentage of physically sound lads between these ages."

A maternity bonus of £5 ensures proper comfort and attendance for the mother in return for her service to the Commonwealth. The registered nurses in Australia and the admirable Plunket nurses in New Zealand, are well fitted to provide that attendance, and the death-rate of mothers in confinement has fallen from 5.86 per 1,000 in 1903, to 3.73 per 1,000 in 1911 in New Zealand. Widows and deserted wives receive pensions with a grant per head for each child, and offences against women and children are punished with the utmost severity. The illegitimate child is registered in the name of the father, and in New Zealand he is bound to maintain it.

Good wages, short hours, and healthy conditions of work are secured to girls and women since the female franchise has been adopted—thus increasing their fitness for motherhood—and there are also very careful restrictions upon child labour. Working for the women is also working for the children, since the economic position of the mother determines to some extent the health of the child; yet the reduction of the infant death-rate, and the rearing of healthy children are apparently not regarded by Anti-suffragists as matters of Imperial moment. To us, however, it seems that this work is of the highest service to the Empire, since the men and women of the future are its chief asset.

The women of the Dominions overseas also serve the Empire by inculcating in their children a far wider and deeper patriotism than is found here, and "Empire Day," which is celebrated on the 24th of May, is the greatest event of the school year. As a teacher of hundreds of boys and girls, I found eager and enthusiastic listeners for the records of the achievements of their forefathers; and the story of the noble lives that influenced the old land for good found its mead of veneration and admiration in the hearts of those who hold so much of the future of the British race in their keeping.

What is the outcome of all this? Some will remember when the N.S.W. troops went to our assistance in the Soudan, but the memory of the contingents sent out from New Zealand and all the Australian States at the time of the Boer War will be fresh in the minds of all.

The women of the Commonwealth, and the Dominion, too, have not been backward in supporting the demand for a defence force and the demand for a Navy for the Pacific. Indeed, before there was any regular defence force in the Southern hemisphere, the women teachers had found that the most effective way of training the larrikin (hooligan) element was through military drill, and the Boys' Brigade bears eloquent testimony to the success of their efforts, as do also the quiet and orderly streets.

Enough has been said to show that if Great Britain is to be the centre of a noble and beneficent Empire in the future, she must preserve the qualities by which she achieved greatness, and chief among these is her faith in freedom and justice. It is because she is regarded in these remote regions, where her sons and daughters have made a new Britain under an alien sky, as the champion of truth and honour that she is so dearly loved and so deeply reverenced. Let her not lightly sully her reputation. She is face to face with a demand for justice and a demand for liberty, backed by the spirit that won these in the past against overwhelming odds—a spirit as indomitable as it is irresistible. Let her remember in time the words of Burke:—

"We cannot, I fear, falsify the pedigree of this fierce people, and persuade them that they are not sprung from a nation in whose veins the blood of freedom circulates. The language in which they would hear you tell the tale would detect the imposition—your speech would betray you. An Englishman is the unfittest person on earth to argue an English-(woman) into slavery."

MARGARET HODGE.

## The Employment of Children and the School-Leaving Age.

[We leave writers perfectly free to expound facts and suggest remedies, but IN NO CASE does the N.U.W.S.S. take responsibility for the views set forward in signed articles. Our object is to provide a platform for free discussion.]

Mr. R. D. Denman's Children's (Employment and School Attendance) Bill is the practical expression of a very real desire of all parties to regard the employment of children less as a factor in the general industrial problem than as a prelude to their adult career, and, therefore, as a kind of vocational training supplementary to elementary education. We have definitely got beyond the stage where children were regarded as potential "hands" in industry, and can hardly imagine that a time ever existed when English children, boys and girls alike, from five years upwards were made to climb chimneys naked, when

children of eight worked in mixed gangs at field work in the Fens, and when night-work in factories by children of tender age was a commonplace of industrial life. But some almost incredibly harsh conditions still persist. Only in march the *Times* reported a case of children of three helping to card hooks and eyes, actually earning money, and being "beaten to make them do the work." By-laws still permit children of school-age to work as much as eight*, six and a-half†, or six hours‡ on days when they are also attending school, and twelve or even thirteen§ on Saturdays and holidays. The physical and mental deterioration of many half-time children in mills and factories is a common feature of North-country life, and the risks run by boys and girls who leave school to engage in street-trading and blind-alley occupations are put before us by countless inquirers into the predetermining causes of poverty and crime. Reformers of almost all schools demand the raising of the school-leaving age, limitation of the working hours of children, whether of school age or above it, prohibition of all wage-earning for children under school age, and restriction of all child-labour to "beneficial" employment. Immediate legislation is undoubtedly called for in this field. Nevertheless, we shall not, if we are wise, be hurried into any far-reaching and inelastic system of prescription and prohibition. This is a matter in which any attempt at uniformity and an artificial simplicity would be nothing less than disastrous, and would lead to the over-centralisation which impairs the usefulness of our elementary school system, or the intricacy under the mask of symmetry which defaces the Health Insurance Act. The forces which make for centralisation and uniformity are vocal and well-organised, while the large body of opinion which demands elasticity is scattered and inarticulate; the school-teachers are on one side, and the majority of the parents on the other, and the favourite panacea of the party which asks for uniformity is the raising of the school-leaving age.

This, in the eyes of many reformers, would of itself cure or palliate many of the evils contingent on the present conditions of juvenile labour. The school-teachers, an intelligent and public-spirited body of men and women, advocate the raising of school age to fourteen, fifteen, or even sixteen, because they are persuaded that the more school education any child receives, the better for him or her. The general public advocates it in the confident hope that children who compulsorily spend the "difficult" or "critical" years of their teens in school will avoid blind-alley employments, and non-beneficial employments, and take their places as skilled labourers at a living wage. The education authority has at its command the machinery necessary to keep the children at school, and this, we are told, will be the easiest and best way of keeping them from premature wage-earning and undesirable employment.

Mr. Denman's Bill proposes that by a child we shall henceforth understand a boy or girl between five and sixteen. In previous Acts "children" have been young persons under fourteen. Child-labour legislation now regulates the employment of children of school-age (up to twelve); of children in agricultural areas who between eleven and thirteen are half-timers specially exempted from full school attendance; and children between twelve and fourteen who have left school. Raising the school age to a minimum of thirteen and an optional maximum of fifteen by by-law would withdraw from employment during school hours all children under thirteen (including those in rural areas), and also children between thirteen and fifteen in areas where local authorities shall decide to raise the leaving age to the permitted maximum. It would leave untouched the cases of children under school-age, such as the hook-and-eye carders of whom we have heard or the thread-clippers in the Irish linen industry; it will not deal with employment out of school-hours on school days, or for full days on Saturdays and holidays. Raising the leaving age would have no effect upon some of the most crying evils of child-employment, which must be left to *ad hoc* legislation directly regulating labour at various ages. The positive disadvantages of this way of attacking the child-labour questions are more important. Mr. Denman proposes to put all regulation of labour by persons under sixteen under the education authority instead of under the Home Office. It is said that regulations have been unduly influenced by employers who are interested in maintaining a supply of cheap juvenile labour, and that the children's interests have been sacrificed to questions of industrial profit. When child-labour is regulated by changes in the school-leaving age the decision is left in the hands of persons just as biassed, but this time intent upon keeping the children at school as long as possible. The parents are to have only the most indirect voice in a matter so important to them and their children. Reformers justify themselves in ignoring the wishes of parents by recalling instances of children being sacrificed to parents greedy for the small wage that the child excused from school may earn. It is true that there have been selfish parents in the past who allowed children to sweep chimneys at five, but this was at a time when public opinion cheerfully acquiesced. Only a small minority of parents at any time are more indifferent to their children's real advantage than the most enlightened of philanthropists. Because a small number of parents is suspected of selfishness it is proposed to deprive the remainder of all choice as to their children's occupations between the ages of thirteen and fifteen. Parents know as much of life in their own sphere as do the education authorities; they are as familiar with their children's aptitudes and difficulties as any schoolmaster; they err quite as frequently in the direction of leniency as of harshness, and they care more what becomes of the child than any of the worthies who are so anxious to usurp the responsibilities of father and mother.

This proposed injustice is only tolerated because it is illogically recommended as a way of equalising opportunities of the poorer child with those of his more prosperous public school contemporary. Why, the reformers say, should a boy because he is poor, be deprived of the years of schooling which most boys of the commercial and professional classes have as a matter of course? Why, indeed, if they will benefit him? But supposing he wishes to leave school at thirteen or fourteen, and his parents wish him to do so, should they not have the option (which all middle-class parents have) of removing him and setting him to some kind of work or training which suits his special aptitudes better than a school curriculum?

Advocates of a prolonged school life argue as though trade schools and other vocational training were available for every elementary school boy or girl who wished for them. As a matter of fact such facilities are comparatively rare. Advocates of manual training in elementary schools forget that there is even now a shortage of certificated teachers qualified in the ordinary school subjects, and that the number of teachers able to give vocational education or even manual training is few, and would be quite inadequate to deal with the large numbers of children who would be thrown upon their hands if any considerable number of education authorities raised the leaving age to fifteen. Our ordinary curriculum, whether in elementary or secondary schools, is far from ideal. It leaves undeveloped many qualities of intellect and character which practical work in workshop, office, or factory can supply, if the boy or girl goes to wage-earning work while still of a receptive age. It will be soon enough to keep children compulsorily at school till fifteen when we have provided them with schools which will give them the practical training which they must have if they are to be self-supporting. Educationists complacently call the leaving-age of fifteen optional; it is optional for the authority, but not at all for the child or for his parents. The parent "may" persuade the authority that his boy is leaving school to enter "beneficial" employment, but he has to persuade a committee which regards school as more beneficial than almost any employment.

What we ought to have is a real option. All children now obtain elementary instruction up to the age of eleven. It should be possible for any boy or girl to remain at school till fifteen, sixteen, or even seventeen if their parents and the education authority think it desirable. On the other hand, a child should be allowed to leave school even at eleven if the confinement of school is injurious to its health, or if it desires to acquire manual dexterity in any art or industry, provided that its education is continued in continuation classes. Rich parents have this amount of choice, and do not conspicuously abuse it. Real class equality in this matter is not obtainable by a compulsory levelling up of elementary education to the middle-class standard, but by giving each class equal opportunities of choice. The parent, who is after all the "next friend" of the child, should have the chief voice in deciding whether the leaving age in the case of his child should be raised or no.

E. M. Goodman.

[*Mr. Baker's article last week discussed the opposite point of view.*—Ed., C.C.]

* Barnsley, Bradford, Huddersfield, &c.
† Hertfordshire, Hull, &c.
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## "WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

It was a little after half-past two on Saturday, April 11th, when Queen Amélie of Portugal arrived at Olympia, and accompanied by Mr. Neville Foster and her ladies and gentlemen in waiting, entered the vast hall to inspect the exhibits on view at the Children's Welfare Exhibition. There was no formal ceremony, but those who were fortunate to be near enough, heard the Queen express in a few words, with a pretty, foreign accent, the pleasure which it gave her to open this exhibition devoted to the welfare and happiness of the children. An eager crowd, restrained from too close attentions by a band of stalwart policemen, watched Her Majesty as she passed from stall to stall, conversing with the exhibitors.

Meanwhile, upstairs, in "Woman's Kingdom," finishing touches were being put to the stalls, and commissionaires and stall-holders were learning their way about, incidentally examining and admiring some of the beautiful exhibits, congratulating themselves that, for once in a way, they could benefit the Suffrage cause, and at the same time indulge their taste for the artistic. In the National Union Office work was in full swing. The officials in charge have, for the moment, to be Jacks of all trades, and on Saturday afternoon the secretary of the Parliamentary Department might have been heard dictating letters regarding press work to the clerk of the Finance Department, while next door the secretary of the Information Bureau grappled with her first inquiry, and racked her brains (and those of her neighbours) for the life and history of Black Agnes, of Dunbar. But the event of the afternoon in the "Kingdom" was the arrival of the first baby at the crêche. Mother and father having come to the conclusion that life at an exhibition was too exciting for baby, he was deposited there, while they went on to study together the examples of woman's work in the home, the garden, the hospital, and every other branch of life. Baby highly appreciated this arrangement, and crowed and laughed happily in the arms of his temporary nurse. It was clear that he quite realised his good fortune in being left in the charge of Suffragists, and by no means shared the Antis' views of those "unsexed females."

Former numbers of The Common Cause have described the charms of this exhibition, but they must be seen to be realised, and we would advise every one of our readers who can possibly do so to pay a visit to it without delay. They will not regret it.

**On Friday, April 17th, at 3.30 p.m., the Duchess of Marlborough, who much regretted being unable to open the Woman's Kingdom part of the exhibition, will visit the exhibits.**

### PLEASE USE OUR COUPONS!

Readers of The Common Cause visiting Woman's Kingdom should be sure to fill in and take with them the coupon which appeared in Messrs. Neave's page advt., in The Common Cause, April 9th. By presenting this coupon at their stall (113), they can obtain a free sample tin of either Neave's Food, Neave's Milk Food, or Neave's Health Diet.

Another free sample to be obtained in return for a Common Cause coupon (see p. 39) is St. Ivel cheese, at Stall No. 8, packed in the N.U. colours.

### ENTERTAINMENTS AT "WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

On Easter Monday Miss Italia Conti's wonderful children gave a performance of songs and dances, and an amusing play entitled "Votes for Children" was also given at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The following attractive programme has been arranged by the Actresses' Franchise League:—

Wednesday, 15th.—Miss Evelyn Glover's "Which," produced at the Arts Centre recently repeated with the original caste.
Thursday, 16th, 8.30.—"A Chat with Mrs. Chicky."
Friday, 17th, 8.30.—"The £12 Look," by J. M. Barrie. (Mrs. Monillot, Fewlass Llewellyn.)
Tuesday, 21st, 5 p.m.—"Press Cuttings," by G. Bernard Shaw. (Victoria Addison, Cathleen Nesbitt; Nell du Maurier, Clifton Alderson; W. T. Stack, Jackson Wilcox.)
Wednesday, 22nd, 3.30.—"Brass and Clay," by Marion Holmes.
Thursday, 24th, 3 p.m.—Miss Italia Conti's Singing and Dancing Children 5 p.m.—Lydia Javorska in the 4th Act of "A Doll's House."

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## CAMPAIGN IN EAST FIFE.

*April 12th.*—During this last week the two largest halls in the Division have been filled with enthusiastic audiences and 120 "Friends'" cards have been signed at these and at the smaller meetings. Miss Lumsden, LL.D., and Miss Geraldine Cooke were the speakers in the Corn Exchange, Cupar; Mrs. Annot Robinson and Mrs. Chew in the Town Hall, Leven. At Cupar, one of the local Society's officers, Miss Caw, took the chair very successfully. This meeting in the big Corn Exchange was advertised by means of a motor omnibus—the only one in all East Fife—which we chartered for the afternoon, covered with posters and flags, progressing in it from Leven to Newburgh and back, somewhere about forty miles. This novel mode of advertisement (a suggestion, by the way, which we owe to the fertile inventiveness of Miss C. E. Marshall) roused a great deal of interest, and should be tried again in other parts of the country. The meeting at Newburgh, addressed on April 7th by Miss Geraldine Cooke, was a brilliant success, at least 450 people being present in a town numbering under 2,000 inhabitants! This excellent meeting was entirely owing to the vigorous canvassing of Miss Sayer, a helper of wonderful efficiency lent by the Edinburgh Society. Miss Craigie, Miss Shakspeare, and Mrs. Sime, deserve great credit for filling the Corn Exchange at Cupar. At St. Monan's, Tayport, Kennoway, Colinsburgh, and elsewhere, a series of successful gatherings has been held.

The uncertainty as to whether a contest was to be or not to be has been very harassing, and has made the laying of plans most difficult. It was essential to embark on a very considerable outlay since halls and committee rooms could not have been picked up at the last moment in the event of a fight. It has been impossible to cancel bookings of halls, and therefore more money has had to be spent unavoidably than headquarters is justified in granting. Will kind friends realise our needs and continue the generous gifts which have already reached us? The eyes of the world have literally been fixed on East Fife in these recent days, and all readers of The Common Cause must be glad that we flew the flag in no hole and corner fashion, and that day after day we have been educating the constituents of the Prime Minister in the principles of our Cause. When the General Election comes there will not be a nook or corner of East Fife with which we are not familiar, and where "Friends" and members cannot be found. A result like that is worth paying for, is it not?

Alice Crompton.

2, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh.

## MISS C. E. MARSHALL AT BRADFORD.

Miss Catherine Marshall, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the N.U.W.S.S., speaking at the I.L.P. Conference at Bradford, said:—

"I am proud to have the honour of coming here to-day, as a comrade in one, at least, of the great causes for which you are fighting, to bring greetings and good wishes from the N.U.W.S.S. to the I.L.P. It is a great disappointment to our President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, that she is not able to be the bringer of these greetings herself; nothing but an important prior engagement would have prevented her from coming.

"As I am here in her place, as the official representative of the National Union, and of the Election Fighting Fund Committee, it will perhaps not be amiss if I say a few words about the relations which exist between the N.U. and the I.L.P.—relations of good-will and co-operation which have grown up in the last year or two, and which I hope will continue to grow and develop.

"A distinguished member of the I.L.P. who, I regret to say, does not welcome the co-operation between the two movements (just as some members of the N.U. do not welcome it) recently referred to the N.U. as 'an organisation with alien aims and objects.' He subsequently explained that by this he meant that the National Union is not a Socialist organisation. It is true that the N.U. is not a Socialist organisation—any more than it is a capitalist organisation, or a Liberal or Tory organisation; but it is not true that it has any aim or object which is alien to the aims of the I.L.P. The N.U. has one object only—the enfranchisement of women, and the consequent raising of the status of womanhood which that measure will involve. And it is because this object holds a foremost place on the programme of the I.L.P. that I am sent here to-day to wish the I.L.P. many happy returns of the day on its 21st birthday.

"Although the immediate reason for the co-operation between the I.L.P. and the N.U. is the fact that both are working for Women's Suffrage, there are other and deeper reasons why these two movements were bound, as I personally believe, to draw together in sympathy and understanding, if not in actual co-operation. Are we not two children of one mother—the great spirit of democracy? Is not the same motive power at the back of both movements—the determination that the rights of human beings, the recognition of their place in the social scheme, should be based on their humanity, and not on their membership of this or that class, or sex, or race?

"I think it was Emerson who said: 'Show me a man's friends, and I will tell you what manner of man he is.' I would say: 'Show me a movement's enemies, and I will tell you what manner of movement it is.' There is no bond more potent than the bond of a common enemy; and the Woman's Movement and the I.L.P. have many enemies in common. Are we not both fighting that old enemy which always stands in the way of any progressive movement—the spirit of monopoly and privilege, the opposition of those who possess power to those who demand freedom? Are we not both endeavouring to awaken the social conscience of our generation, and encountering, therefore, the hostility of all those forces to whose interest it is that the social conscience should remain drugged and asleep? Friends, we have never greater reason to feel pride and faith in the great democratic movement of which we are a part than when we look at the character of the forces arrayed against us.

"I do not want to speak to-day of how the I.L.P. and the N.U. can help one another in those forms of work in which we are deliberately uniting our forces; but I do want to speak of another kind of help which you men of the I.L.P.—and indeed of the whole Labour movement are giving, unconsciously, perhaps, to us women of the Women's movement—a kind of help which I believe we can reciprocate if you will let us.

"When any section of the community has been fettered and oppressed, whether it be a class, or a sex, or a creed, or a race, the first result of a movement towards freedom is apt to be a feeling of bitter antagonism towards those who have been responsible for the fetters and oppression. The reaction from oppression is sometimes almost as unjust in its manifestations as the oppression itself. A phase of rather ugly self-assertiveness has to be gone through before right relations are established and a state of normal healthy balance attained. We in the Women's movement are going through this phase now. We are clamouring a great deal about our rights; about the monstrous selfishness of man-made laws; the faithlessness of male politicians; there is, in fact, a danger that the Women's Movement, which came into being as a result of a generous impulse to help men in the great work of social regeneration—there is a danger that this movement may for the time express itself in the form of sex-antagonism. It is this danger that you are helping us to overcome. How can we let ourselves fall a prey to sex-bitterness when the men of the I.L.P. are helping us at every turn in our work in the country—when we see that you feel our wrongs as keenly as we do ourselves? Above all, when we know that you are prepared to forego any further franchise gains for yourselves until women can share in them—we realise that it is not against men we have to fight, but against a wrong system, which has erected an artificial barrier between men and women, dividing into two camps those who ought to be comrades, working side by side.

"And in the same way is there not a danger in the Labour Movement that the revolt of an oppressed class may lead to class-bitterness? Can we in the Women's Movement not help you there? We have broken down class barriers in our movement, just as you have broken down the sex-barriers in yours. You place sex-equality in the forefront of your programme, and you welcome women to your ranks as comrades on the same footing as yourselves. Similarly, membership of our Union is open on equal terms to men and women of every class and occupation. Everyone has a vote, and only one vote. We welcome as a fellow-worker anyone who wants to work, even if she happens to be a Duchess! Cannot we do for you in the matter of class antagonism what you are doing for us in the matter of sex-antagonism? Do not mistake me. I am not arguing against class-*consciousness;* but against class *bitterness*. The former is a necessary stage in the process of emancipation; but bitterness never helps any movement; it destroys the clear vision and the balanced judgment. I believe it is by saving one another from becoming bitter in the course of the struggle we have set ourselves that the Labour Movement and the Women's Movement can give each other help far more valuable than any mere co-operation in elections—help that will bring out the best in both movements, and keep them sound.

"There is one other point of similarity between the Labour Movement and the Women's Movement on which I should like to touch in conclusion. I mean their international aspects. It is no accident that both the Labour and the Women's Movements tend to develop strongly on international lines—that the workers in Great Britain are deeply stirred by the wrongs of the workers in South Africa, that the women of Russia are found weeping over the sorrows of the women of Finland. When you set out to break down one sort of barrier you often find that the removal of that one involves the removal of others also. The growing international solidarity of the workers in all lands is a great force making for peace between nations. The sense of the common motherhood of women which the Women's Movement is awakening will, when fully realised, make it impossible for one nation to shoot down the sons of another.

"In their international aspects the Labour Movement and the Women's Movement are each doing their part to hasten the day when the brotherhood of humanity will be something more than the prophet's vision or the preacher's platitude; it will be a conscious reality, a living truth, in whose light distinctions of class, or sex, or creed, or colour will no longer have power to cause hatred and bitterness between those who should live together in peace and good-will and helpful comradeship."

### "C. C." SELLERS AT OLYMPIA.

Sellers are still very much wanted for Friday, 24th, Monday, 27th, and Wednesday, 29th. Will volunteers please communicate with Miss Gosse, at the Common Cause Lounge (Stall 100) at Woman's Kingdom.

C. C. C.

Two depôts where papers may be obtained for street selling have already been opened, one for North and one for South London. The addresses are :—

The Betterment Bookroom, 40b, Roslyn Hill, N.W. (Closes at one on Thursday.)

The South London Suffrage Shop, 24, Newington Causeway, S.E. (Open daily 10.30—1.30. Tuesday and Friday 10.30—6.)

It will be a great help if everyone who is now selling will send in her name to her branch secretary, or to Miss Gosse, L.S.W.S., 58, Victoria Street, S.W., and join the C.C.C., which will be much more effective if it can work as one corps, uniting in itself all the groups and independent sellers.

Anyone who calls at 58, Victoria Street on any day between 10 and 6 (Saturdays, 10 to 12), can be told of a meeting for that day, and get papers.

## LOWESTOFT.

### THE N.U. DEMONSTRATION.

A splendid meeting at the Marina Theatre on the afternoon of April 14th closed with the carrying, with only four dissentients, of a resolution demanding a Government measure. Sir Victor Horsley, from the chair, said that history was made, not by battles, but by the gradual liberation of the people by the grant of the franchise. Teachers were honoured because they created citizens. Mrs. Fawcett said that the Suffrage question was one of the greatest, widest, and deepest importance; and that such questions should be dealt with by Government measure only. The granting of votes to women would bring home to men domestic responsibility, and to women national responsibility. Miss Matters maintained that the woman's movement was now spreading all over the world. All sensitive souls responded to it, and saw men and women marching to democracy. When women could eliminate the sense of monopoly, they would be free. Monopoly was the source of more human misery than any other cause. The enfranchisement of women meant moving from monopoly to unity in the largest sense. "Where is it going to end?" asked Miss Matters in a most inspiring peroration: "It isn't going to end!" Mrs. Rackham made a very effective appeal for members, and described the work of the National Union.

### WOMEN TEACHERS' FRANCHISE UNION.

The Women Teachers' Franchise Union held a public meeting in the Wesley Hall, Lowestoft, on Saturday evening, previous to the opening of the N.U.T. Conference. During the afternoon a poster parade was organised, advertising the meeting, and giving the reasons why women teachers want the vote.

The Chair was taken by the President, Miss Agnes Dawson, a London delegate to the Conference and a member of the N.U.W.S.S.

Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, a London school doctor, moved the resolution "That this meeting of delegates of the N.U.T. and others desires to record its conviction that it is in the best interests of education that women be granted the Parliamentary franchise." Mr. Laurence Housman seconded the resolution, and was followed by Miss Nancy Lightman, a London teacher, who dealt with the subject from the teachers' and children's point of view.

The resolution was carried with only five dissentients. Mr. Dakers, B.A., out-going President of the N.U.T., Miss Cleghorn, M.A., former President of the N.U.T., and Mr. Allen Croft, Executive, added words of sympathy and encouragement.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The National Council of Austrian Women has issued an invitation to delegates attending the International Council in Rome to spend May 25th-28th in Vienna after the Congress. They have arranged a programme which will enable their guests to see something of the beautiful city, and of the country round it, bearing in mind that delegates will be tired after their work in Rome. It is hoped that as many as possible will visit Austria, as such interchange of hospitality and ideas will undoubtedly help forward the Woman's Movement in that country.


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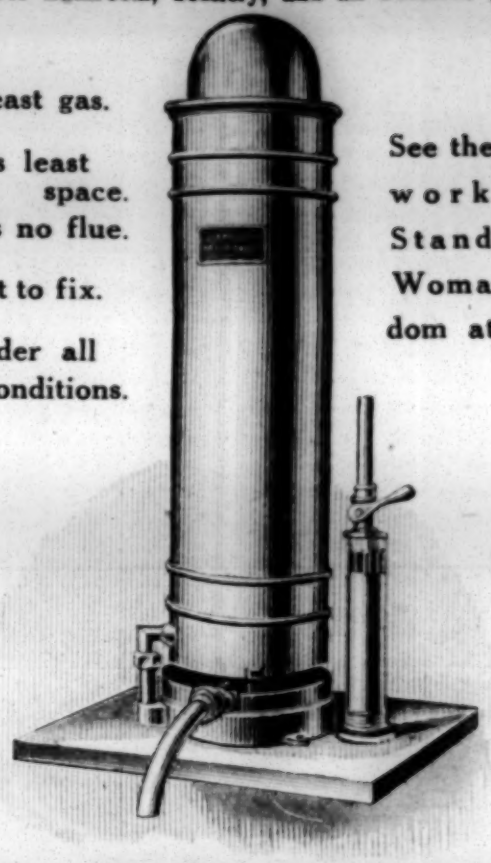

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# News from the Societies and Federations.

## Central Counties.

BIRMINGHAM.—During March we have held in all seventeen meetings, besides five in other places for which the Birmingham Society supplied speakers. Four Trade Unions passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, after listening to one of our speakers—namely, Gasworkers, Miners, Toolmakers, and Shop Assistants. Miss Higginson and Mrs. Reid spoke at a meeting of men Liberals, and gained a resolution. A good, but rather difficult, meeting was held at the Cotteridge, got up by Mrs. Bayes. It was just after an outbreak of militancy in that district, and there was an element of the noisy boy and girl type present, but the meeting was so ably handled by Councillor Fryer and Miss Fry that it was carried to a triumphant issue. Mrs. Rackham spoke at another large meeting in Sparkbrook organised by Miss Kirby, Miss Byett, President of the Women's Federation of Teachers in Birmingham, taking the chair.

Our Suffrage Stall at the Exhibition has opened most favourably. It is in permanent charge of Mrs. Jesper, other ladies and gentlemen helping every day. Money, and names of members and "Friends," with an extensive distribution of literature, make it seem very well worth while. Twenty-seven new members have joined during the month, and the number of "Friends" has increased to 2,879.

Mrs. Watson has a capital monthly Suffrage circle amongst working people at Tyburn.

COVENTRY.—During the month we have had eleven meetings.

March 2nd.—A meeting specially arranged for clerks and typists was held in the Coffee Rooms, when the Rev. F. H. Matthews spoke on "Women's Suffrage and Equal Pay for Equal Work," Mrs. Haywood taking the chair.

March 12th.—Debate arranged by the Wesley Guild. Miss Rogers "for," Mr. Home "against." Suffragists won by a large majority.

March 26th.—Mrs. Rackham spoke to a drawing-room meeting, kindly given by Mrs. Fraser Almand, at 3.0; and again in the evening to an audience in the Coffee Rooms, when Mrs. Hodson took the chair. Everyone thoroughly appreciated Mrs. Rackham's practical addresses, and we all felt how our movement would go ahead if we were all "doers," as she is, and not just "passive believers."

March 28th.—A rummage sale was held in St. Peter's Mission Room. Nearly everything was cleared off in an hour, and we realised £7 5s. 0½d. We thank all those who helped to make this a success.

Miss Rogers has spoken to some large, and always very friendly, audiences of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Friends' Adult School, Women's Labour League, United Machine Workers' Association, Kingfield Women's Adult School, and some Women's Guilds. New members this month number 11; "Friends," 101. We regret that Miss Rogers leaves us for work in Yorkshire after Easter. We are looking out for a new Organising Secretary to carry on the work.

STAFFORD.—A drawing-room meeting was held at Motherwood, by kind permission of Mrs. Joyce. Mrs. Kempthorne, wife of the Bishop of Lichfield and President of the new Central Counties Federation, presided. She spoke very convincingly of women's need of representation. Mrs. Osler, President of the Birmingham Society, gave a most interesting address. Questions were ably answered by Mrs. Osler, and Mrs. Kempthorne replied to a vote of thanks. There were about sixty present. Some literature was sold, and a collection taken in aid of the local Society.

## West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

BIRKENHEAD.—The annual meeting was held on March 31st in the Co-operative Hall, Mrs. Morel presiding. Miss C. Leadley Brown gave an address, and was supported by Mr. J. Maddocks, Miss Latham, and Mr. H. Collard.

DUNCAN.—Here the difficulties are great. The Member is a strong Anti-suffragist, the labour is mostly unskilled and Trade Unions badly organised. On March 26th Miss Eleanor Rathbone took the chair at a public meeting, when Fenner Brockway, Esq., and Miss Eskrigge spoke. Twenty-eight of the audience signed as "Friends."

MOLD.—Owing to Mold being rather an isolated spot, and no Secretary having been found, the group of members here had, to a certain extent, lapsed, but on being called on by Miss Eskrigge, they agreed to help with organising a public meeting for Miss Helen Fraser.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE.—March 25th.—Miss C. Leadley Brown addressed a meeting of members and "Friends," when the resolution to demand a Government measure was passed unanimously. Two new members joined, and 15s. 3d. was taken in the collection. Nine copies of The Common Cause were sold.

WHEELTON, near Chorley.—Mrs. J. P. Jackson presided over a good attendance in the Council School, Wheelton, when Miss C. Leadley Brown spoke with excellent effect.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—On March 16th, in the Deeside Assembly Rooms, Heswall, an interesting public debate took place between Miss C. Leadley Brown, representing the Wallasey and Wirral Suffrage Society, and Mrs. Gladstone Solomon, for the Liverpool and Birkenhead Anti-suffragists. Miss Leadley Brown, in moving the resolution, "That it is essential to the well-being of the country that the Parliamentary vote be granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men," dwelt on the benefits that had come to working-men through the vote, and upon the disabilities of voteless women. The motion was lost, the greater part of the audience not voting.

On March 27th Miss Eleanor F. McPherson spoke on "The Legal Disabilities of Wives and Mothers," at Mrs. Stanger's (Wallasey) drawing-room meeting, this being the last of the series of meetings for the second educational campaign. Miss Mahler presided over a fair attendance. A resolution thanking Mr. E. T. John, M.P., for securing the enfranchisement of women in the Welsh Home Rule Bill, was moved by Miss McPherson and seconded by Mrs. G. Stallybrass, and carried. The Secretary described the Active Service League, and appealed for recruits.

ORGANISATION. NORTH WALES.

Several of the North Wales Suffrage Societies arranged meetings for the Rev. Hatty Baker during the latter part of March. Miss Baker, who was formerly pastor of the Horsted Keynes Congregational Church, now devotes her time mainly to speaking on Women's Suffrage. After taking the Sunday services at the newly-founded Women's Church at Wallasey, Miss Baker came to North Wales for Suffrage meetings, and began her tour at CARNARVON, where a meeting was jointly arranged by the Carnarvon Women's Suffrage Society and the Carnarvon W.T.A. on March 24th. The chair was taken by Mrs. Vaughan Davies, who spoke briefly in Welsh. Miss Baker's address on "The Religious Aspect of Women's Suffrage" greatly delighted a large and interested audience.

MENAI BRIDGE (ANGLESEA).—The meeting here was arranged by the West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation on March 25th at 8 p.m., in connection with the Suffrage campaign now proceeding in the constituency of Mr. Ellis Jones Griffith (Anglesea). Our Organiser, Miss Thomson, experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining a suitable hall, owing to a rooted conviction amongst the inhabitants of Menai Bridge that every woman who asks for a vote must of necessity have nefarious designs upon property. The Pier Pavilion was eventually secured, and with the assistance of some Bangor members an excellent meeting resulted. Dr. Williams, of Llys Meirion, was in the chair, and suceeded in keeping a certain difficult section of the audience in perfect order. The Rev. Hatty Baker addressed the meeting, and Mrs. Price White (Bangor) also spoke. The resolution asking for a Government measure was proposed by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Charles Jones (Vron), and carried *nem. con.* A collection of 6s. 9d. was taken, many copies of The Common Cause sold, and a considerable quantity of Suffrage literature in Welsh and English distributed.

BEAUMARIS.—March 26th.—A crowded public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Beaumaris. So greatly did the audience exceed the capacity of the hall, that the adjoining Council Chamber had to be thrown open to accommodate those who could not find seats, and there, as well as on the stairs and passages, many stood patiently from the beginning to the end of the meeting to listen to the speeches. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the chair was taken by Hugh Thomas, Esq., C.C. Mrs. Price White explained the non-militant character of the National Union, and referred briefly to the Anglesea campaign. The Rev. Hatty Baker gave a fine address, and was evidently in close sympathy with her audience. The resolution in support of a Government measure, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by William Owen, Esq. (Hyfrydle, Beaumaris), was carried with acclamation. A collection of £1 0s. 6d. was taken. Three dozen and nine copies of The Common Cause were sold.

BANGOR W.S.S. and NORTH WALES SUB-COMMITTEE.—On March 27th the North Wales Sub-Committee of the West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation met at the Queen's Head Café, Bangor, at 2.30 p.m. Representatives attended from Carnarvon, Colwyn Bay, Penmaenmawr, Llandudno, and Bangor. Letters of apology for absence were received from Wrexham, Llangollen, Rhyl, Criccieth, and Holyhead Societies. Interesting reports of the work in the Nort Wales area were received, and plans for future organisation were discussed.

Bangor W.S.S. Tea and Cake Sale, March 27th.—A successful tea, cake, and flower sale was held at the Queen's Head Café, Bangor. The delegates to the North Wales Sub-Committee were entertained to tea by the Bangor Society, many of whose members had thus an opportunity of meeting for the first time the representatives of neighbouring Societies. The proceeds of the cake and flower sale were over £4. Immediately after tea a general meeting of members was held. A large number attended, and an animated discussion took place on the future General Election policy of the N.U. It was decided to hold quarterly meetings of members in future, in order to foster interest in the local and general work of the Society amongst those members who have not as yet taken active part in furthering the cause of Women's Suffrage.

## North and East Riding of Yorks.

ORGANISER'S WORK IN UPPER WENSLEY DALE.—A Society has been formed in the district including the villages of Hawes, Askrigg and Bainbridge, Aysgarth and Thoralby. Three meetings have been held, all of which were well attended, on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Fifteen new members have been enrolled, and the Society now numbers thirty-five. Local Committees have been arranged in each district, and representatives from these Committees will form a Central Committee, which will meet every three months in Askrigg. Miss Harrison, of Cupple Field, Bainbridge, is the President; Vice-President, Mrs. Alfred Ramtree; Hon. Secretary, Miss Greener, Cupple Field, Bainbridge; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Gill, Askrigg.

After the first Central Committee meeting, arranged to take place when Miss Harris, the Organiser, is next at Northallerton, it is hoped to start a series of study circles. The total collection at the Askrigg and Hawes meetings was £1 4s. 6½d. Sale of literature and badges at Hawes, Askrigg, and Thoralby, 3s. 9d. Two dozen copies of The Common Cause were sold.

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—Mrs. Corbett Ashby most kindly came to speak at two meetings on March 17th. In the afternoon she addressed a small drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Low's, Norton. Two new members joined. In the evening a well-attended public meeting was held in Malton. Three dozen copies of The Common Cause were sold, four new members joined, F.W.S. cards were signed, and a collection of £1 3s. was taken. Mrs. Ashby's lucid and able speeches were much appreciated, and her kindness in coming so far to help us will long be remembered by members of the Malton Society.

MIDDLESBROUH.—An admirable address on "The Disabilities of Wives and Mothers" was given by Mrs. Earp on March 13th in Hinton's Café. Three new members joined the Branch, and a collection of 17s. 10d. was taken.

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.—On March 13th a successful meeting, arranged by the Saltburn Society, was held at Boosbeck, and the audience, which was composed chiefly of men, was most sympathetic. Mr. Gardner, of Boosbeck, was in the chair, and the chief speaker, Mrs. Earp, of Rotherham, proposed a resolution calling upon the present Government to introduce a measure for the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Aldersley, the Organiser of the Society now working in the district, seconded the motion in a stirring speech on the great need of reform in the housing of the working-classes, and the resolution was carried without a dissentient. A large number of copies of The Common Cause were sold.

SCARBOROUGH.—A very successful and enjoyable entertainment for F.W.S., organised by Mrs. Tindall Harris, Hon. Secretary, F.W.S., took place at St. Nicholas Boarding House on the evening of March 25th, and was well attended. A novel feature of the entertainment was the gramaphone records of Suffrage speeches, heard on the beautiful gramaphone kindly lent by the Mayoress (Miss Graham). Miss Hopkins, of Malton, gave an interesting address on F.W.S. and the useful part the scheme played in the work of the National Union. Mrs. Tetley and Miss Hantres (Hon. Secretary, Filey Society) played with great skill and histronic ability, "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," which was much appreciated by the audience. Several members and others contributed songs, and spare copies of The Common Cause were given away. Sixteen new "Friends" signed cards, and two members were obtained. On March 27th four members wearing the colours sold copies of The Common Cause and distributed literature outside the hall where a big Unionist demonstration took place. When he saw "Non-Militant" written in big scarlet and green letters across The Common Cause, a working-man said to one of the sellers, "You're the right ones, miss; go on, don't stop, and you'll get it in the end"! The Common Cause is now sent weekly to a subscriber resident in British East Africa. The large banner of the Scarborough Society has been sent up to help in the scheme of decoration at Woman's Kingdom, Olympia.

YORK.—On March 16th the Railway Women's Guild assembled at 10, Museum Street, to hear an address from Mrs. Meyer on "The Need for the Enfranchisement of Women." Mrs. Storey presided, and after the address an animated discussion took place. Afternoon tea was served, and a collection of 5s. taken.

On March 24th Mrs. Leadley was "At Home" at 21, Feversham Crescent, when she invited Mrs. Meyer to address her guests on the question of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Chapman, in a few words, introduced the speaker. Half the audience joined as members or Friends of Women's Suffrage.

Mrs. H. J. Rymer gave a small drawing-room meeting at 12, Huntington Road, on April 2nd, to members and sympathisers in the Monk Ward district. Miss Thompson presided and Mrs. Meyer spoke. At the close of the meeting four sympathisers became members.

Owing to the energies of our Common Cause Hon. Secretary, we have increased our sales a dozen per week, sixteen dozen copies of The Common Cause being sold through the Office during March.

ORGANISATION. LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Miss Eskrigge has been engaged chiefly during March in working in Ashton, in Makerfield, Runcorn, and Mold, with the object of forming Societies there. Owing to various reasons, industrial and otherwise the work in these places is slow and uphill.

ASHTON.—On March 23rd a meeting was held in the Congregational Schoolroom, with the Rev. H. Fisher Short in the chair. Mrs. Chew and Mr. Robert Lewis (Labour Agent, Newton-le-Willows Division) were the chief speakers. The audience was not large, but sufficiently interested and sympathetic to justify hopes of good work in the place. On April 1st Miss Beavan addressed a small meeting of sympathisers, who all promised act on a provisional Committee and to work up another meeting of "Friends" on April 20th. Three of the Miners' Branches of Trade Unions have passed Suffrage resolutions.

### Mrs. Fawcett's Tour in the Isle of Wight and Sussex.

In order to address a series of public meetings, Mrs. Fawcett has been visiting the Isle of Wight and Sussex. These meetings were an unqualified success in every sense of the word, the excellent speeches making a very good impression, Suffrage resolutions being carried, and new members made. Added to this, we should soon see Societies formed at Bognor and Newport.

Holding her first meeting at Ryde, Mrs. Fawcett shared the platform with Mr. Baillie Weaver, fresh from his Suffrage meeting at Ventnor. At Newport some four hundred people assembled and followed closely the delightful speeches of our President and Miss Fielden. Sir Godfrey Baring was unable to come, but was ably represented in the chair by Lady Baring.

In spite of a heavy storm, a good audience assembled at Bognor to hear Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Alys Russell; Mrs. Dempster took the chair, and the first public meeting for Women's Suffrage in Bognor went remarkably well. The next day Mrs. Fawcett appeared on the platform of the Literary Institute, Worthing. Mr. A. O. Jennings, LL.B., of Brighton, took the chair, the audience being enthusiastic and keenly interested. Success also crowned the meeting at the Recreation Hall, Heathfield. Mr. Rolleston Stables supported Mrs. Fawcett as second speaker, and the impressive addresses were followed throughout with the closest attention.

The press, both locally and in the surrounding neighbourhood, reported the meetings well. Several new members have joined, much literature has been distributed, and many F.W.S. cards signed as a result of this work. The speeches breathed hope, inspired by the steady progress of the movement, and firmness in demanding our enfranchisement.

## London Society.

BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on March 27th. Mrs. Mackern took the chair, and Miss Edith Dimock spoke on the new constitution of the Society. A large number of members were present, much business was dispatched, and the new Committee for the ensuing year elected.

NORTH HACKNEY.—On March 26th a meeting for "Friends" was held at the Library Hall. Despite the pouring rain, there was an audience of between fifty and sixty. Suffrage songs were sung by a ladies' choir, conducted by Miss Eva George, and two charming solos were rendered by Miss Ethel Stannard; both items were much appreciated. The speaker, Mrs. Hunter, in a general survey of the Women's Movement, mentioned the great work of prison reform begun by Elizabeth Fry could only be extended by allowing the women of England a voice in making the laws they were punished by. A resolution desiring the Government to bring in a measure for the enfranchisement of women was proposed by Mrs. Challis, seconded by Miss Hammond, and carried with one dissentient. Seven new "Friends" were gained.

HAMPSTEAD.—During March our energies have been largely devoted to the arrangement of two meetings for F.W.S. one in the Town Ward and one in the West End. The former was held on March 16th in the Stanfield Hall, and was a great success. Between sixty and seventy people were present, including the Heath Street Adult School, which adjourned its usual meeting early in order to come to ours. Councillor Berry Weaver took the chair, and Mr. Osler, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Mrs. Ronald Garrett spoke. Mrs. Garrett also sang two Scotch songs. "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," which was performed by Mrs Chamberlin and Miss Jackson, was much enjoyed, and its arguments proved very effective. Nearly all present either were already F.W.S. or signed cards before they left the meeting.

The West End meeting was held on March 30th at the Broomsleigh Street L.C.C. Schools. Mrs. Ronald Garrett took the chair, and Mrs. Garrett Jones spoke. Mrs. Norton sang several songs, which were greatly appreciated, and "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky" was again performed. Numerically, this meeting was not as great a success as the other, as only about twenty people were present. Seven of them, however, signed cards at the end of the meeting, and all were very enthusiastic. At both these meetings refreshments were provided by the generosity of members.

In order to raise funds for future work we arranged a concert, which was held on March 25th at 1, Fitzjohn's Avenue, by kind permission of Mr. Frank Debenham. Miss Dorothy Moggridge and Miss Marjorie Hayward very kindly gave us their services, and Miss Vida Milholland, Miss Dorothy Morgan, and Mrs. Garrett Jones sang the Brahm's Trios for female voices. Musically, the concert was very successful, and we realised about £10 for the Society's funds.

On April 2nd we held a drawing-room meeting at 19, Lyndhurst Road. Our hostess, Mrs. Singer, herself took the chair, and Mrs. Garrett Jones spoke.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.—On March 30th a meeting was held at Allen Street Schools. Chairman, Miss Boyd—Speaker, Miss Rinder. Refreshments were provided, and the play which was to have been given ("A Chat with Mrs. Chicky") having fallen through, owing to the illness of one of the players, Miss Pierce kindly recited. Miss Owen played the piano, and Miss Boyd and a small member of the audience sang. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, nine F.W.S cards signed, and two members joined.

LEWISHAM.—Local Suffragists had the great pride and pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Fawcett, who addressed the public meeting held by the Joint Committee in St. Mary's Hall on March 31st. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., presided, and Mr. R. F. Cholmeley seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.* and by a large majority. Archdeacon Escreet and Dr. Ames also spoke, and among many distinguished supporters present were Mrs. P. W. Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Console (I.L.P.), Major Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dowson, Miss F. Gadesden, Lady McDougall, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Monk, the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Shaw, &c.

A meeting of the Catford Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild was addressed by Miss M. Goddard on April 1st. The resolution was carried unanimously, and all present became "Friends."

An open-air meeting was held at the corner of Avenue Road on March 24th. Speaker, Miss M. Goddard. Resolution carried by large majority.

NORTH AND SOUTH PADDINGTON.—A meeting was held at the Guardians' Offices, Harrow Road, on March 31st. Chairman, Rev. N. E. Egerton Swann—Speaker, Miss Stoehr. Refreshments were given. There was a large audience. Forty-seven F.W.S. cards were signed, forty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, and a collection amounting to 7s. 0½d. taken.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAS.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 56, Doughty Street, W.C., on March 30th. Hostess, Mrs. L. Turner—Chair, the Rev. A. W. Allen—Speakers, Mrs. O. Strachey and Mr. Hawes Turner.

WEST ST. PANCRAS.—A very well-attended drawing-room meeting was held at 11, St. Mark's Square on March 25th. Hostess, Mrs. Powell—Speaker, Miss Dawson. Ten "Friends" were enrolled. A resolution asking for a Government measure was passed with one dissentient.

EAST ST. PANCRAS.—A drawing-room meeting was held at 187, Camden Road on March 26th. Hostess, Mrs. Davies—Speaker, Mrs. Ronald Garrett.

On April 7th Miss Rinder addressed the W.L.A. at Gladstone House, High Street, Camden Town, on "The Menace of the Underpaid Woman in the Labour Market." The audience were very much interested. Four F.W.S. enrolled.

WALWORTH.—A drawing-room meeting was held on April 1st at 181, Walworth Road, addressed by Miss Hay Cooper. Miss Marjery Goddard presided. Mrs. J. Osborn, P.L.G., was the hostess. Mr. Osborn seconded the resolution, which was carried with one dissentient. Six members were made, two F.W.S. enrolled, and others promised to join. Literature and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

WANDSWORTH.—Meeting at Town Hall—March 30th—Speaker, The Lady Frances Balfour—Chair, Miss Emily Hill, P.L.G.—Present, quite 200—Ten new members joined—Proceedings enthusiastic.

## Forthcoming Meetings.

***Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY before the announcement is to be inserted. Notices must be addressed to the Sub-Editor.***

### London.

*APRIL 18.*

**Bow**—Bromley Hall, Bow Road—Speaker, Mrs. Paul Campbell 8.30
**Finchley**—Brent Garden Village—Debate 8.0

*APRIL 19.*

**Hyde Park**—Near the Reformers' Tree—Meeting—Speakers, Miss M. Fielden, Mr. J. G. Kennedy 3.0

*APRIL 20.*

**Deptford**—Christ Church, Reginald Road—Women's Meeting—Speaker, Miss Hay Cooper 3.0
**Whitechapel**—Hanbury Hall, Hanbury Street—Speaker, Mrs. Paul Campbell—Chair, Father Murphy 8.30

*APRIL 22.*

**Muswell Hill**—The Athenæum—Annual Meeting—Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, Mr. H. T. Cawley, M.P., the Rev. Ardan Hancock, B.A.—Chair, Mr. G. A. Tyler—Preceded by a Reception—Hostess, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves 7.15

*APRIL 23.*

**Central and South Hackney**—St. Matthew's Parish Hall, Upper Clapton—Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, the Rev. A. E. W. Simms—Chair, the Rev. F. E Marsh—Admission by Ticket—Collection
**Finchley**—29, Vernon Terrace, Long Lane—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Boggon—Speaker, Mrs. Stanbury
**Islington**—Cattle Market, North Road—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Philippa Fawcett 8.0
**Kennington**—22, Lansdowne Gardens—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. R. J. Back—Mrs. Rawlings on "Answers to some Anti-Suffrage Arguments"—Chair, Miss Hoblyn 3.30

### The Provinces.

*APRIL 17.*

**Bridgnorth**—Speaker, Mrs. Ring
**Horley**—"Monreith"—Members' Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Auerbach—Chair, Mrs. Lethbridge
**Watford**—James Room, 42, Queen's Road—Members' Meeting 8.15

*APRIL 20.*

**Croydon**—344, The Arcade, High Street—Speaker, the Rev. Ernest Barson 3.30
**Haslingden**—Market Lamp—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson—Chair, Mr. W. H. Thomas 7.30
**Hetton**—Miners' Hall—Meeting for Members and "Friends"—Speaker, Miss Sheard 7.0
**Hexham**—Congregational Schoolroom—Miss Hall on "Josephine Butler"—Chair, the Rev. Ellis Pearson 7.30
**Jarrow**—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Wanless—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke 3.30
**Tunbridge Wells**—18, Crescent Road—Meeting of Members at Tea 4.0
**York**—Assembly Rooms—Speakers, Miss H. Fraser, Mrs. P. Newman, Mr. F. Bradley—Chair, the Rev. R. G. Pyne, M.A.


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*APRIL 21.*

**Ashton-under-Lyne**—Mecca Café (Fleet street Entrance)—Annual Meeting for Members at 7.0
Public Meeting—Mrs. Graemé Hamilton on "Women and Labour" 7.45
**Bishop Auckland**—Y.M.C.A. Hall—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Mrs. Alex Thompson 7.30
**Brentwood**—Parochial Hall, Junction Road—Lantern Lecture by Miss Susan Laurence, L.C.C., on "Sweated Industries" 8.0
**Bristol**—40, Park Street—At Home 3.0
**Devonport**—"The Welcome," Fore Street—Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Whalley 8.0
**Gateshead**—23, Oxford Terrace—Reading Circle—Mrs. Swanwick's book, "The Future of the Woman's Movement" 7.30
**Hull**—Church Institute, Albion Street—Speaker, Miss H. Fraser 8.0
**Ilkley**—Annual Meeting at 7.30
Mrs. Rabagliati and the Committee "At Home"—Musical Programme—Speaker, Mrs. Renton 8.0

*APRIL 22*

**Bacup**—Union Square—Speaker, Mrs. Chew—Chair, Mr. W. Howorth 7.30
**Birmingham**—Quinton—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Wright—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 4.0
**Bishop's Stortford**—Girls' Social Club Room—Meeting for Teachers—Speaker, Mrs. Heitland—Chair, Mrs. Holland 4.45
**Chester-le-Street**—Girls' Council School—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.30
**Easington**—The Rectory—Drawing-room Meeting—Speaker, Miss Sheard—Chair, the Rev. A. West 7.0
**Exmouth**—Public Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Swanwick 3.0
**Filey**—Victoria Hall—Speaker, Miss H. Fraser—Performance of "The Fat Cattle and the Lean Cattle" 8.0
**Hove**—Blatchington Assembly Rooms—Speaker, Lady Maud Parry—Chair, Miss M. F. Basden 8.15
**Quinton**—Maythorn, Ridgacre Lane—Drawing-room Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Wright—Mrs. Ring on "Women and Government"
**Wokingham**—Drill Hall—Annual Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Hardcastle—Chair, Miss V. Eustace 8.0

*APRIL 23.*

**Cirencester**—Annual Meeting—White Elephant Sale at 3.0
Performance of "Mrs. Chicky" at 5.30
Address by Mrs. Haverfield at 6.0
**Easington**—The Rectory—Drawing-room Meeting—Speaker, Miss Sheard 3.0
**Gateshead**—Bewick Hall—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Dr. J. T. Dunn 7.30
**Hove**—27, Sackville Road—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Benham—Mrs. Francis on "Sweated Industries"—Chair, Dr. Benham 3.30
**Middlesbrough**—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Howell—Mrs. E. Gray on "The Woman's Movement"
**Rawtenstall**—Open Space, Lord Street—Speaker, Miss E. Wilkinson, B.A.—Chair, Mr. W. Holden 7.30
**Shaldon**—Victoria Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Swanwick 3.0
**Wansbeck**—Drawing-room Meeting—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke Afternoon

*APRIL 24.*

**Birmingham**—"Smethwick"—Mrs. Ring will address the Pattern Makers 9.0
**Birtley**—Co-operative Hall—Speakers, Miss G. Cooke, Miss C. M. Gordon—Chair, the Rev.—Farndale
**Bournville**—Ruskin Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Ring—Dramatic Performance, "How the Vote was Won"
**Bristol**—3, Hurlingham Road—Working Party—Address by Miss Bowie 7—8.30
**Cambridge**—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss Creak on "Joseph Mazzini and the Women's Movement" 8.0
**Guildford**—Suffrage Office—Mrs. Cowmeadow on "Why Working Women Need the Vote"—Chair, Mrs. W. J. Harris (President, Surrey Branches Women's Co-operative Guild) 3.0
**Leicester**—Temperance Hall—Speakers, Mrs. Gatty (N.U. of Shop Assistants), Miss Blackstone—Chair, Mrs. Ryden 8.0
**Southampton**—Art Gallery—Annual General Meeting—Election of Officers, &c., and Speeches 3.30
**St. Neots**—Corn Exchange—Speakers, Mrs. Ramsey, Miss D. Mason, B.A. 8.0
**Stocksfield**—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Parnley Graham—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Mrs. Pumphry 3.0

## Scotland.

*APRIL 17.*

**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. Shaw McLaren on, "What the Woman's Movement Means to Some of Us" 4.30

*APRIL 22.*

**Aberdeen**—Square Room, Music Hall—Reading from Scottish Ballads, by Miss L. I. Lumsden, LL.D. (President, Aberdeen Association for W.S.)

*APRIL 24.*

**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—At Home 4.30
**Glasgow**—202, Hope Street—Hostess, Miss M. C. Morrison—Miss Dorothy Spence Allen on "Women under the Insurance Act"—Tea 4.0

### Free Church League.

A meeting of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on April 30th, at 8 p.m. The Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A., and Mrs. Philip Snowden are speaking, and it is hoped that there will be generous response to the special appeal for £1,000 which is urgently needed to carry on the work of the League.

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# Coming Events.

***We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column at a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning. All communications should be addressed to the Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert-st., Adelphi.***

ETHICAL CHURCH, QUEEN'S ROAD, W. April 19th. 11.—Sir Victor Horsley, "The Present Unethical Treatment of Poverty and Public Health." 7.—Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe (Editor of the "Sociological Review"), "Tagore and the National Revival in India."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, W. Subscription One Guinea. Good Library. Lecture, Wednesday, April 22nd, at 4.30. Mrs. Douglas Knocker. Subject: "Maternité."

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Tuesday, April 21st, at 3 p.m. New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. "Woman as Citizen." Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

WOMAN'S KINGDOM.—The Best Way of Teaching Little Children to Read. A Course of three Demonstrations on "The Mother-Tongue and the Child Brain," will be given by Mrs. B. Hanbury Rowe, of Bournemouth. Monday, April 20th, 3 to 4.30, "The Graphic Alphabet." Wednesday, April 22nd, 3 to 4.30, "The Three Guiding Principles." Saturday, April 25th, 4 to 5.30, "The Fine Art of Reading." Discussion invited.

# PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

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LEAGUE OF JUSTICE.—22, South Molton-st., W. A Feminist League. Join it and strengthen the New Militancy (law-abiding) for the Cause.

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